Bengaluru Thursday, October 30, 2025 Pages 18 Vol 78 No 299 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

India up against formidable Australia

Hosts hope for an 2017 WC encore against Healey & company

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Nation

President Murmu flies in Rafale fighter jet, calls it unforgettable P.11

World

India slams Pahalgam–Mayanmar link in UN report P.12

Nation

Ram Temple got Rs 3k-cr donations so far P.10

State

Ready to respond to charges: Khader P.5

Surya slams DKS over tunnel, asks if it is a 'matrimonial project'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya on Wednesday hit back at Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar for justifying the Rs 20,000 crore tunnel road project by linking car ownership to social status and marriage prospects.

"Is this a matrimonial project?" Surya asked, questioning the rationale at a press conference, stating that only 12% of Bengaluru residents own cars and reminded the Deputy Chief Minister that a major chunk of citizens —including families — continue to use public transport.

TUNNEL TANGLE

Countering Surya, Shivakumar claimed that a majority of the BJP MLAs were in favour of the project and only former minister R Ashoka and Surya were "speaking against the project". "The government's policy should ensure that 70% of people use public transport. All existing projects are moving at a snail's pace," Surya said.

▸ Surya, Page 3B

Another report, Page 2

Doing trade deal with India, says Trump

Repeats his claim of brokering truce between India and Pak

SEOUL, PTI

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday said that the US is "doing a trade deal with India" as the two sides continue to hold talks on the proposed trade agreement.

While speaking at the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) CEO Summit in Gyeongju, South Korea, Trump added that he had great "respect and love" for Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"If you look at India and Pakistan...so, I'm doing a trade deal with India and I have great respect and love, as you know, for Prime Minister Modi, we have a great relationship," the US president said.

He landed in South Korea Wednesday morning from Japan as part of a three-nation tour of Asia.

"Prime Minister Modi is the nicest looking guy...he looks like you'd like to have your father like...he's a killer...he's tough as hell," Trump added.

If you look at India and Pakistan...so, I'm doing a trade deal with India and I have great respect and love, as you know, for Prime Minister Modi, we have a great relationship.

DONALD TRUMP, US President

However, without elaborating further on the subject of the trade deal, he once again shifted to his claims of resolving the conflict between India and Pakistan.

"I called Prime Minister Modi. I said, we can't make a trade deal with you... (He said) No, no, we must make a trade... I said, No, we can't. You are starting a war with Pakistan. We're not going to do it," Trump said.

India has consistently maintained that the understanding on cessation of hostilities with Pakistan was reached following direct talks between the DGMOs of the two militaries.

Trump's latest comment came at a time when the relations between New Delhi and Washington have been reeling under strain after Trump imposed 50% tariffs on India, including 25% levies for its procurement of Russian oil.

HPCL-Mittal stops Russia oil purchase

HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd (HMEL) has suspended purchases of Russian oil, the company said, clarifying that the vessels, which delivered previous consignments, were not under international sanctions. The private refiner, a venture between HPCL and Mittal Energy Investments, operates a 9 million tonnes a year refinery in Bhatinda.

Details on Page 6

'PM will dance': Rahul stirs up Bihar poll pot

BJP accuses Oppn leader of acting like 'local goon'

PATNA/NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Bihar poll campaign turned into a heated exchange of personal barbs on Wednesday when Congress leader Rahul Gandhi mockingly said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would dance if he was told that the act could fetch him votes. The BJP retorted sharply with the party spokesperson saying the Leader of the Opposition was acting like a "local goon".

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with RJD's Tejashwi Yadav at a campaign rally in Muzaffarpur on Wednesday. PTI

BIHAR VOTES

Addressing a campaign rally in Muzaffarpur, his first in the poll-bound state, Rahul attacked Modi by referring to the row over the Delhi government creating an "artificial" Yamuna ghat with filtered water for the PM to take part in Chhath Puja.

"...Narendra Modi is ready to enact all types of drama. You try telling him at a poll rally that, Mr Prime Minister, we will vote for you if you dance. He will readily perform Bharat Natyam. PM Modi can do anything for votes. Tell him he can get votes if he dances. He will do that too."

BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari slammed Rahul.

▸ Rahul, Page 3B

> Narendra Modi is ready to enact all types of drama. You try telling him at a poll rally that, Mr Prime Minister, we will vote for you if you dance. He will readily perform Bharat Natyam. PM Modi can do anything for votes.
>
> **RAHUL GANDHI**
> Congress leader

Govt mulling Rs 1L-cr bailout plan for escoms

NEW DELHI, REUTERS: The Centre is considering a bailout exceeding Rs 1 lakh crore ($12 billion) for debt-laden state-run power distribution companies.

To receive bailout funds, states will be required to privatise electric utilities and transfer managerial control or keep control but list them on a stock exchange, according to officials and a power ministry document.

Details on Page 13

3 dead as Cyclone Montha batters Andhra, Telangana

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Three people were killed in Andhra Pradesh as severe cyclonic storm Montha crossed the Andhra Pradesh coast near Narasapuram in the early hours of Wednesday, leaving large parts of the state battered, while Telangana too suffered significant impact.

Unconfirmed reports put the toll at four in Andhra Pradesh, where coastal districts bore the brunt of the cyclone's fury, with torrential rain lashing regions from Visakhapatnam to Tirupati. Telangana, including Hyderabad, experienced continuous downpour.

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VIT CHENNAI 15 VIT CHENNAI

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Couple held after 'road accident' turns out to be deliberate hit

BENGALURU, DHNS

The death of a 24-year-old man, initially believed to be the outcome of a road accident, has turned out to be a murder, with police arresting a married couple in connection with the suspected road rage incident.

Accused Manoj Kumar

Puttenahalli police have arrested the couple from Gottigere — Manoj Kumar, 34, and Arathi Sharma, 30 — for the murder of Darshan N, 24, a delivery executive from Uttarahalli.

Kumar is a Kalaripayattu instructor while Arathi is a homemaker.

Police investigations found that the killing followed a minor collision of the victims' scooter with the couple's car that damaged the car's mirror.

On October 25, the JP Nagar traffic police initially registered a road accident case after Darshan died of head injuries.

His friend, Varun G, 24, who was riding pillion, had sustained injuries.

The incident occurred around 11.35 pm at Srirama Layout in JP Nagar, 7th Phase.

However, a review of CCTV footage during the probe showed Kumar and Arathi "dangerously" chasing the victims' scooter in their car and deliberately ramming into it with the intent to cause severe bodily harm.

▸ Road rage, Page 3B

Man thrashed for 'vandalising' temple idols

Tension prevailed in Devarabeesanahalli on Tuesday after a differently-abled man allegedly entered a temple wearing slippers and created a ruckus. Locals thrashed him and alerted the police. Police said the suspect, Kabir (45), a cobbler, tried to damage a photo of deity. When locals objected, he allegedly entered a temple and tried to tug at idols.

Details on Page 2

India-China military talks at Chushul

Ahead of the winter, top military commanders from India and China have met at Chushul-Moldo point on the LAC to review the ground situation and reaffirmed that the two sides have maintained "peace and tranquillity" along the disputed boundary. The talks happened days ahead of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' summit.

Details on Page 10

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Shri Vishnu Deo Sai
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

S-45708/23

Prosecutor caught accepting Rs 1,100 bribe

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Lokayukta police on Wednesday arrested a public prosecutor for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 1,100.

The arrested person has been identified as KS Latha, Public Prosecutor at XLV Additional City Civil and Sessions Court in Bengaluru (CCH-46).

Officials said the complainant had approached them alleging that Latha demanded money to file objections in a case. The Lokayukta police laid a trap and caught her red-handed while accepting the bribe.

She has been booked under Section 7A (taking undue advantage to influence public servant by corrupt or illegal means or by exercise of personal influence) of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018. Further investigation is underway.

BMTC bus service to Bengaluru South RTO

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) on Wednesday extended route 215B from KR Market to Anajanapura to connect the Bengaluru South RTO (KA 05) via Banashankari TTMC.

The first service from KR Market departs at 8.05 am and the last at 7.10 pm. From the Anjanapura RTO, the first bus service is at 9.10 am and the last at 6.15 pm.

The RTO office, which previously functioned from the Jayanagar TTMC in 4th Block, was shifted to Anjanapura on October 25.

The new address is 64/1, Anjanapura, Uttarahalli hobli, JP Nagar 9th Phase, Bengaluru-560078. The office is 3 km from the Doddakallasandra metro station.

Jigani police probe pro-Pak WiFi username

BENGALURU, DHNS: Jigani police have registered a non-cognisable complaint against an unknown person for creating a WiFi ID with a pro-Pakistan slogan.

Govardhan Singh, a Bajrang Dal activist, filed a complaint after spotting a WiFi network named 'Pakistan Zindabad' while visiting Kallubalu village in Jigani. He shared a screenshot of the network, which later went viral on Tuesday. Singh told the police that he had discussed the matter with neighbours before approaching them.

"We have gathered details about the suspects and will take legal action soon," the police said.

Invites to be published should be sent to:
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Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

Decade gone, but no vets: Forest dept's wildlife crisis

Earlier plan sought 14 vets; officials now say 25–30 needed

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Over a decade after it was first proposed, the Forest Department is still without dedicated wildlife veterinarians.

Home to the country's largest elephant population and the second highest number of tigers, the state lacks specialised doctors who play a crucial role in rescuing injured animals, monitoring wildlife health, and collecting forensic evidence in poaching and other wildlife crime cases.

Forgotten document

The absence of such expertise was recognised more than 10 years ago, after a spate of elephant, gaur, leopard, and sloth bear deaths.

A vision document was then drafted, outlining a two-phase plan to build a trained cadre of wildlife veterinarians and establish a forensic laboratory for wildlife health monitoring.

"The matter was sidelined as soon as things turned normal. Over the years, the challenges to wildlife conservation have only increased," said a senior department source.

The first phase of the plan focused on disease surveillance and veterinary specialisation in wildlife health and behaviour. The second phase aimed to train forest staff and existing veterinarians in conflict zones, along with developing forensic and legal capabilities.

Karnataka lacks specialised vets to treat injured animals, monitor wildlife health, and aid in wildlife crime investigations.
REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

Disease monitoring

However, little progress has been made.

A senior forest official admitted that while coordination with the police on forensics has improved, wildlife disease monitoring remains neglected.

"The interaction between cattle and wildlife is higher now compared to a decade ago. We are rescuing more animals from human habitats. Herbivores are sharing grazing spaces with domestic cattle, and spillovers are highly possible. There is no surveillance or monitoring to alert us," the official said.

Even minor infections, such as salmonella among leopards and tigers or foot-and-mouth disease among deer and other cloven-hoofed animals, can have long-term ecological consequences, experts warn.

Incidents like the one at the Sakrebailu elephant camp, where a male elephant lost part of an ear after a botched treatment by untrained vets, have further exposed the department's limitations.

Currently, it depends on five veterinarians borrowed from the Animal Husbandry Department.

While an earlier proposal recommended appointing 14 wildlife vets, officials now say at least 25 to 30 are needed.

Khandre to raise issue with chief minister

Acknowledging the shortage, Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre said, "The interaction with wildlife is high due to shrinking habitat. We do need specialised individuals for wildlife conservation. I will raise the matter during a meeting chaired by the chief minister."

He also said the government was also working to address the shortage of frontline staff.

Only Ashoka, Tejasvi are against tunnel road project: DKS

Hints that most BJP MLAs support the proposal

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday said only two BJP leaders — former minister R Ashoka and Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya — are opposing and "speaking against" the proposed tunnel road project.

He hinted that most BJP MLAs are in favour of the project and questioned the party's contribution to Bengaluru's development when it was in power.

"We will do our work. Seeing our interest, people are supporting our efforts. I am confident that our work will be implemented," Shivakumar told reporters.

Responding to Surya's criticism of the project, he said, "I am not a technical expert on this issue. He is also not an expert. That is why there is a separate team of technical experts."

R Ashoka

Tejasvi Surya

Responding to Surya's call for expanding the Namma Metro and suburban rail network, he agreed that the city's mass rapid transport system should indeed grow.

"Let it be done — there's nothing wrong with that. The central government should provide the necessary funds. V Somanna, from our own state, is a Union minister. Let him (Surya) seek his help and do whatever he wants. If he wants to oppose the tunnel road, let him go ahead," he said.

The proposal is to build a 16.5-km tunnel road between Central Silk Board and Hebbal, aimed at easing traffic congestion.

Black magic scare in govt office; police launch probe

BENGALURU, DHNS

Panic spread among staff at the District Surveillance Office on Old Madras Road on Monday morning after materials associated with black magic were found tied to the main door.

Indiranagar police rushed to the spot and removed black thread, lemons, and a broken earthen pot to allow employees to resume work.

A senior police officer said the staff arrived around 10 am and were shocked to see the objects. Several employees reportedly left the premises in fear, while District Surveillance Officer Dr Sharath Babu HD alerted the police and filed a written complaint.

Dr Babu also informed senior officials of the district health and family welfare department.

"We have obtained CCTV footage and are verifying it to identify those responsible. The motive behind the act is yet to be established. We are probing all possible angles, including any civic disputes or internal rivalries," the officer said.

Youth assaulted by friends during birthday celebration dies; murder case registered

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 23-year-old man who was allegedly assaulted by his friends during his birthday celebration has succumbed to his injuries.

The Jigani police have registered a case of murder and launched a hunt for the accused.

The deceased has been identified as Sandeep S, a resident of Vaddarapalya and a driver by profession.

According to a complaint filed by his father, Sallapuri, who runs a transport business, the family celebrated Sandeep's birthday at their residence on October 16.

Around midnight, two of his friends, Santhosh and Sagar, took him to a nearby volleyball court, saying they wanted to celebrate his birthday "in a different style". There, they allegedly attacked him with a blunt weapon before fleeing the spot. Passersby later found Sandeep lying unconscious and informed his family, who rushed him to a private hospital. Despite treatment, he succumbed to his injuries on Tuesday.

"We have identified the accused, who are said to be habitual offenders. Efforts are on to nab them," a police officer said.

DEDICATED TO CARE

A disabled man and an elderly woman struggle to climb the steps at an event marking the International Day of Care and Support at Bal Bhavan, Cubbon Park, on Wednesday. The programme was organised by the Women & Child Development and Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens departments. DH PHOTOS/PRASHANTH HG

Police crack two house break-in cases; recover valuables worth Rs 1.23 crore

BENGALURU, DHNS: Police have solved two separate house break-in and theft cases, recovering valuables worth Rs 1.23 crore.

In the first case, Begur police arrested two persons who had broken into a house in Vishwapriya Layout on June 18. The house owner, who was away at the time, discovered the theft of 330 grams of gold ornaments and 1.2 kg of silver items.

Police said the suspects had pledged the stolen valuables at three gold shops in KGF, Kolar. "A total of 614 grams of gold ornaments and 470 grams of silver articles valued at Rs 72,00,000 were recovered from the possession of the suspects," police said in a statement.

In the second case, the JP Nagar police arrested a domestic worker who had stolen jewellery from the house where she had been employed for 10 years.

Her absence from work for 20 days after the theft helped police identify her as the suspect.

She was arrested near her sister's residence, close to a college in Puttenahalli. During interrogation, she revealed that she had pledged the stolen gold and silver ornaments at two jewellery shops in Jayanagar and one in Ramamurthy Nagar.

"Police recovered a total of 458 grams of gold ornaments and 3.868 kilograms of silver articles. The total value of the recovered property is estimated at Rs 51,40,000," police said in a statement.

Cops seize 1,949 stolen mobile phones in a month; devices worth Rs 3 crore

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a month-long drive, the Bengaluru police have recovered 1,949 stolen and snatched mobile phones, worth about Rs 3.02 crore.

During the operation, police, including teams from the Central Crime Branch (CCB), arrested 42 suspects. The CCB alone arrested six suspects and recovered 422 stolen smartphones worth Rs 70 lakh. Officials said the accused had packed the phones in aluminum foil to block tracking signals.

Seemant Kumar Singh

Since March 2024, tracking based on IMEI numbers uploaded on the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal has helped police trace 894 smartphones.

"Of these, 522 phones were returned to their original owners, while 372 recovered phones are kept at the Integrated Command and Control Centre. Members of the public can reclaim their devices by producing ownership documents," police said in a statement.

Announcing the recovery, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh urged citizens to verify sellers before buying second-hand goods, especially mobile phones and vehicles.

'Authorised sellers'

"Go for authorised sellers," Singh said. He later handed over some of the recovered phones to identified victims at his office on Infantry Road.

Differently abled man held for entering temple with slippers; thrashed by mob

BENGALURU, DHNS: Tension gripped Devarabeesanahalli, near Marathahalli, on Tuesday after a differently abled man allegedly entered a temple wearing slippers and attempted to pull down the idols of the guardian deities.

Angry residents overpowered him and handed him over to the police.

Police identified the accused as Kabir, 45, a cobbler residing in the same locality.

Early in the morning, he was seen shouting religious slogans and allegedly damaging a deity's photo in the area. When confronted by locals, he reportedly ran into the nearby temple carrying a bottle of oil and stones, hurled stones at a pillar, and tried to pull down the guardian idols.

Temple staff and devotees caught him, tied him to a tree, and assaulted him before alerting the police. Kabir sustained minor injuries and is being treated at a private hospital.

Police have registered a case against the mob for assaulting him. Some residents accused Kabir of being a migrant labourer from Bangladesh and demanded strict action.

Marathahalli police have seized a bottle of oil, slippers, and stones from him, and they have arrested and taken him into custody for further investigation.

Mason kills worker over cooking meat during Chhath Puja

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chikkajala police on Tuesday arrested a mason for allegedly strangling his co-worker to death after a quarrel over cooking non-vegetarian food during Chhath Puja at an under-construction site.

The accused, Radheshyam Chauhan, 49, and the victim, Shambu Thanti, 48, both from Bihar, had been working and staying at Navarathna Agrahara for two years.

Police said Thanti, who was observing Chhath Puja, objected to Chauhan cooking meat during the festival. The two argued on Sunday night, and their supervisor, Surendra Pandit, intervened, promising to settle the issue the next day.

Had facial injuries

On Monday morning, when Pandit could not reach Thanti, other workers checked on him and found him dead with facial injuries. Chauhan was missing.

He later appeared at the police station and confessed to striking and strangling Thanti before attacking him with a wooden log.

Free oxygen concentrators for patients in need

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Dr Shyama Narang Foundation (MND Trust) has announced the availability of new, unopened oxygen concentrators with 5-litre and 10-litre capacities. These units will be provided free of cost to individuals suffering from respiratory conditions who are in genuine need of this equipment.

To avail the support, patients must submit:

A doctor's prescription indicating the need for an oxygen concentrator and proof of residential address (such as a copy of the patient's Aadhaar card).

Patients residing outside Bengaluru or Karnataka may also apply, but must arrange their own transport from Bengaluru.

Healthcare foundations or trusts catering to patients may also contact the foundation to collect concentrators for distribution among their beneficiaries.

The concentrators must be collected directly from the foundation's office at: 2nd Floor, Khivraj Bajaj Building, opposite Cubbon Park police station, Kasturba Road, Bengaluru–560001.

For detils, contact: 9845033694/9008461119.

SALUTING SUCCESS

IISc honours global trailblazers with 2025 alumni awards

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has announced eight recipients for its 2025 Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna Awards and Young Alumnus/Alumna Medals.

The awards recognise exceptional contributions by IISc alumni to their professions, society, and the institute.

A committee chaired by the director of IISc evaluated this year's awardees.

The Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna awardees are B Dattaguru, Murthy Gudipati, Sharmila Mande, Suman Chakraborty, and V Muralidharan.

Dattaguru, an expert in structural integrity, fracture mechanics and aircraft structures, has contributed to the safety of missiles and satellite launch vehicles. Gudipati, a senior research scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, is among the world's foremost authorities in laboratory astrophysics.

Sharmila is recognised as a pioneer in microbiome research and computational biology in India. Suman, a leading researcher in fluid mechanics and translational medicine, is known for bridging fundamental science and practical innovation. Muralidharan, Founder and Managing Trustee of Sevalaya Charitable Trust, has led initiatives in rural education, health, and sustainability.

The Young Alumnus/Alumna Medals are conferred on researchers under 40, the organisers said.

G RANGARAJAN
IISc Director

"We are delighted to confer these awards on a diverse group of alumni who have made exceptional contributions to research and education. We are especially happy to support and recognise our young alumni who are blazing new trails in their fields.

This year's awardees are Anjani Priyadarsini, an expert in quantum technologies, computational mathematics, and theoretical physics; Arpita Biswas, a Rutgers University researcher integrating game theory with machine learning; and Pranesh Padmanabhan from the University of Queensland, whose interdisciplinary work advances understanding and treatment of diseases such as Hepatitis C, Covid-19, and Alzheimer's.

"We are delighted to confer these awards on a diverse group of alumni who have made exceptional contributions to research and education. We are especially happy to support and recognise our young alumni who are blazing new trails in their fields," said G Rangarajan, Director, IISc.

The awardees will be honoured on December 20 at the JN Tata Auditorium, IISc.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Bengaluru Bus Stories: Conversation on how public transport weaves lives together by connecting neighbourhoods; Shaheen Shasa, Sobin George, Prajwal Mahesh, Ranjana Raghunathan to speak; Bangalore international centre, Domlur; 6.30 pm.

Conference: 'EdTech for Equitable Education: Critical Conversations'; Organised by IT for Change; Infosys Science Foundation, Jayanagar; 8.45 am.

CULTURAL

Play: 'Call me Devika'; Written by Rupam Mishra; Directed by Jill Navarre; Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; 7.30 pm.

Play: 'Black Out'; Directed by Sandeep Pai; Yoshitha Srinath, Anup Kumar, Rachana Herur and others to perform; Kalagrama; Bangalore University; from 7 pm onwards.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	27.0°C
Minimum	20.0°C

Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	75%
Sunset (Oct 30)	5:54 pm
Sunrise (Oct 31)	6:13 am
Moonrise	12:30 am
Moonset	--:--

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

New clothes, beddings for Darshan once a month, but will remain in quarantine cell

Murder-accused film star claims he's given 'torn bedsheets & covers'

Darshan Thoogudeepa and Pavithra Gowda.

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

A Bengaluru court on Wednesday permitted Kannada film star Darshan Thoogudeepa, currently jailed in the Renukaswamy murder case, to receive fresh clothes and beddings from his family once a month.

The Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge (CCH-57) said charges will be framed on Friday and directed all accused to be present without fail.

Darshan, currently lodged at the Bengaluru Central Prison in Parappana Agrahara, had filed an application before the court, seeking to be moved out of the quarantine cell and to be given additional facilities.

He claimed that prison authorities had provided him with torn bedsheets (jamkhana) and bed covers (chaddar).

The court, however, granted only limited relief, allowing his family to supply fresh clothes, bedsheets and bed covers once a month, as permitted for undertrial prisoners.

The actor also filed an interlocutory application under Section 91 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), alleging that jail staff had "discriminated" against him. He sought details of other jail inmates kept in quarantine since their admission so that the court could take a view.

The court dismissed this application, observing that jail authorities could decide on moving him out of the quarantine cell depending on security considerations.

Meanwhile, strengthening the prosecution, the court took on record a memo filed on October 24 by special public prosecutor P Prasanna Kumar, stating that all the accused, including Darshan, were not cooperating and were deliberately delaying the trial.

The court dismissed all discharge applications and directed both parties to cooperate for speedy disposal of the case.

Renukaswamy, a 33-year-old resident of Chitradurga, was found murdered near a stormwater drain in Sumanahalli, west Bengaluru, on June 9, 2024. His body was badly mutilated.

Police arrested Darshan, his female friend Pavithra Gowda and seven others two days later. More arrests followed subsequently.

According to police, the motive behind the murder was Renukaswamy's "obscene" messages to Pavithra on social media.

On September 3, 2024, police filed a 3,991-page charge sheet, naming Pavithra as accused 1 and Darshan as accused 2, detailing the brutality of the crime.

VTU rolls out internship programme for aspiring lecturers

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a bid to better equip its teachers to impart technical education, Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has rolled out an internship programme for aspiring teachers.

Those in the final semester of MTech or ME programmes and keen on pursuing a career in teaching can avail of this opportunity offered by VTU. Set to be offered from the current academic year, a circular containing all the guidelines for the programme will be issued to all the colleges soon.

VTU was reportedly prompted to roll out the internship programme in the wake of its affiliate colleges grappling with a dearth of teachers, particularly for Computer Science and, Electronics and Communication programmes. "While interviewing candidates for the posts of temporary lecturers, we realised the need to offer hands-on experience to aspiring teachers," said VTU Vice-Chancellor Vidyashankar S.

Aspiring teachers who opt for the internship will be tasked with taking classes for undergraduate students, besides being assigned other academic tasks that lecturers have to handle. Vidyashankar said that the programme was very much like an apprenticeship in an industry.

In fact, students can intern at the colleges where they are pursuing their postgraduation, or opt to do so at other colleges. Students completing the internship will be provided a certificate by the varsity, which they can furnish while applying for teaching jobs. Students can intern for a period of six months to one year.

The VTU VC said that several students pursuing postgraduate programmes were doing so with the express aim of becoming lecturers. As of now, there is no scope for aspiring lecturers to get any experience before taking up jobs at colleges.

Horatti opposes reduction of pass marks for SSLC, II PU

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chairman of the Legislative Council Basavaraj Horatti has objected to the decision of the Department of School Education and Literacy to reduce the minimum pass marks for SSLC and II PUC from 35 to 33.

In a letter to Minister for School Education & Literacy Madhu Bangarappa, he said the decision was not in the interest of students when it comes to global competence.

"It will hamper the competitive mindset of children and they will be branded as 33% batch students," Horatti said.

He said, "The previous system where 35 was the pass marks should be restored."

The Karnataka School Examination & Assessment Board has reiterated the new evaluation policy for class 10 and II PU from the 2025-26 exams. It has issued a detailed circular in this regard.

REMEMBERING APPU

A large number of fans gather at the late Kannada actor Puneeth Rajkumar's memorial to pay tributes to their favourite star on his fourth death anniversary on the premises of Kanteerava Studio in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

New Vande Bharat train from Ernakulam to B'luru soon: V-P

CHENNAI, DHNS: Though there is no official word from the Indian Railways yet, Vice President C P Radhakrishnan said a new Vande Bharat train will connect Ernakulam with Bengaluru soon.

The train, expected to be launched mid-November, is likely to cover 608 km in about 9 hours against the 10-12 hours taken by express trains currently. The semi-high-speed trains are designed to run at a maximum speed of 160 km per hour.

Radhakrishnan, who was on his first official visit to his home state of Tamil Nadu, told an event organised by the Coimbatore Citizen Forum that the new service would resume soon. Southern Railway operated special Vande Bharat trains on the route in 2024 to clear the extra rush of passengers, but was dithering on a regular service.

"The Railways has consented to two of my requests. Soon, Ernakulam- Bengaluru Vande Bharat train will halt at the 4 textile centres of Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode and Salem," he said. He said the Railways will also operate a daily train from Ranchi to Coimbatore for the benefit of migrant labourers in the textile hubs of Coimbatore and Tiruppur.

This is the first official announcement about the service, though Kerala BJP chief Rajeev Chandrasekhar had earlier this month said Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had told a delegation led by him that the service would be launched soon. It is likely to have 6 stoppages – Thrissur & Palakkad (Kerala), Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode, and Salem (Tamil Nadu).

Bandipur safari: No trip beyond 6 pm: Khandre

BENGALURU, DHNS: In the wake of complaints that higher tourist footfalls in Bandipur Tiger Reserve has led to safari beyond 6 pm, Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre has ordered the department to cut off one trip in the evening to avoid such disturbance to wildlife.

"The number of safari trips were increased to meet the demand of an increased number of tourists. Various farmer associations have alleged that this has led to safari trips even after 6 pm and demand for an end to safari altogether," Khandre said, in a letter to principal secretary, Forest Department.

Noting that safari plays an important role in educating people about wildlife and providing livelihood for several others, he stressed the need to maintain balance and has ordered the cancellation of the last trip to avoid the sound and light pollution.

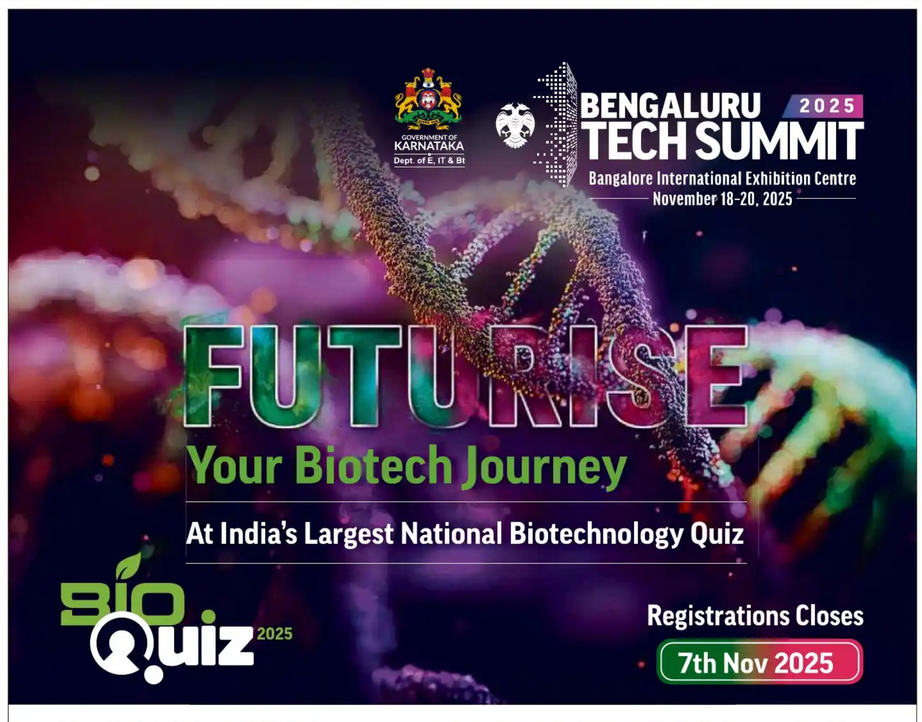
Safari timings and prices are different for bus/canter and jeep. While canter timings ended at 6 pm, the cheaper bus safari was extended up to 6.30 pm. The department didn't display timings for jeep safari but a source said there were instances when the jeep safari crossed the 6 pm deadline.

Notice to teachers over RSS march

BIDAR, PTI: The School Education Department has issued notices to four teachers who allegedly participated in an RSS route march here.

The Aurad Block Education Officer served the notices to the teachers on Tuesday. Videos and photographs related to this have been widely circulated on social media.

The BEO asked them to submit a written explanation and personally appear before this office soon after receiving this notice.



The **18th edition of BioQuiz** returns at **Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025**, organized by the Department of Electronics, IT, Bt, Government of Karnataka. Get ready to test your biotech knowledge and showcase your talent at **BTS 2025**, scheduled from **18–20 November 2025** at the **Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC).**

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ROUND 2 – Online Test Conducted zone-wise between qualifiers from Round 1

ROUND 3 – Grand Finale at BTS 2025 between Round 2 winners on 20th Nov 2025

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Online Regional Rounds: **15th Nov 2025**
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SLEEP SPECIALIST STORES:JAYANAGAR:LINKERS 41505510/9845545384; **MYSORE ROAD/KENGERI**: M R STEEL FOAM & FURNITURE 9886661666/7353661666; **BANASH ANKARI:** CREATIVE LIFESTYLE FURNITURE-9341258880; **HESARGHATTA MAIN ROAD/DASARAHALLI**: SAI FURNITURE AND FURNISHING-7204440999, 9845211899; **HANUMANTH NAGAR**: ASHA ENTERPRISES-9880082830; **VIJAYNAGAR:** LOUVER FURNITURE-23151820/9886327712; **MINERVA CIRCLE**:PRAKASH FOAM MART LLP-9449117790/9110445381; **SANJAY NAGAR**: HANDLOOM FURNISHINGS-25929702,9886536925; **BTM LAYOUT**:NEW DRAPES AND DECOR-9886706000; **NAGARBHAVI:** SRI SHUBHAN FURNISHINGS-9845697369; MY DECOR 99861131501; **HEBBAL:** SOFAWAY- 9538116762; **ELECTRONIC CITY**: SAJAWAT FURNISHING STUDIO-41999211/9880081722; **BELLANDUR:** INSIDE FURNISHING-9845013345; **SRIRAMPURA:** TIPTOP FASHION-9448827261; **SARAJAPUR ROAD** HOME DECOR FURNITURE & FURNISHING-9902480762; MILAN FURNITURE & INTERIOR-9880754751; **MYSORE ROAD(SATELLITE):** SPACIOUS-9341234793; **LAL BAGH FORT ROAD:** ROYAL FURNITURE & DECOR-26578784,9341264330; **MARATHALLI**: MILAN FURNITURE STORE-42170126/9900044550; **SHIVAJINAGAR**: FURNITURE POINT-9945778598; **RAJANKUNTE**: SRI N R FURNITURTE-8955980328; **DEVANAHALLI:**SLRS FURNITURE:9740182505; **NELMANGALA**: SRI LAKSHMI FURNITURE-9880572408. **TUMKUR:** SABKA BEDDING HOUSE 9448661256, **KUNIGAL & KUDUR**: KRISHNA ELECTRO WORLD-9379114251, **CHINTA MANI:** RAMUS FURNITURE PARADISE-9845527729, **MULBHAGAL:** INDIAN TRADERS 9036699786, **SIRA**:SHREEYAS ENTERPRISE-9902165638; **RAMNAGAR**: BHAVANI FURNITURE-9916119349; **CHIKKMAGALURU**: INDIRA FURNISHINGS-9739929669; **CENTUARY COMFORT STORES: BANASWADI**: SRIRAM FURNITURE-9901117495; **MALLESH WARAM**: FURNISHING HOUSE-9901855199; **MOODALAPALYA**: YOUR CHOICE FURNITURE-9343867999 ;**MARASANDRA**:SJS FURNITURE & INTERIOR-9242348545; **UTTARAHALLI MAIN ROAD**: FURNITURE LOOKS 9880532111; **RR NAGAR**: DECO SPACE 9632574444;MANVITHA FURNITURE AND FURNISHINGS-81979327954; **BASAVANAGUDI**: PROGRESSIVE MARKETING-9845926926; **AREKERE**:M H INTERIORS & FURNIS HINGS-9986816570; **JP NAGAR**: NILAMBUR TEAKWOOD-98450 54092; **YELAHANKA:** SAHARA FURNITURE-99167 98756; **NAGARBHAVI**: S G FURNISHING 9066574352; **LAGGERE**: HINDUSTAN BEDDING CENTRE: 9731833664; **MAGADI ROAD:** SRI LAKSHMI FURNITURE: 9740379111; **KANAK PURA:** HOME FASHION-9739002766; **CHAND APURA**: ZEST & NEST-9972338055; **CHICKA BALAPUR:** SRI SAI INTERIOR-9071441666, **TUMKUR**:PUNJAB HANDLOOM HOUSE: 6362159448, **KOLAR**: HMS BEDDING HOUSE 9036480067; **CHIKKMAGALURU**: LOVELY FURNI SHING-9036699979. **AUTHORISED DEALERS: ELECTRONIC CITY 2ND PHASE**: THE HOME BUREAU 9148585180; **RAJAJI NAGAR**: GAYATHRI FURNISHING WORLD LLP -23326593/9880715815; **MALLESHWARAM**: BHARATH FURNISHINGS-23361919/9986018789; SAI HANDLOOM-9738557677; **GUNJUR**: PUNJAB HANDLOOM AND FURNISHING-9886182945; **HSR LAYOUT**: MILAN FURNITURE & FURNISHINGS-9731312283; **CHANDRALAYOUT**: NAMRATHA HAND LOOM-95386 66917; **BASAVA NAGUDI**: S V MARKETING: 742204606,9611208586; **SARAJAPUR ROAD**: DRAPES VIEW-9611950500; **KORAMANGALA:**GEO GROUPS 9844057462;BED CHOICE FURNITURE-99021415775; SHIVAJI NAGAR: SAFA MATTRESS- 9008117328; **DEVANAHALLI:** SRI RAGHAVENDRA FURNITURE-99001 82505; **KADUGODI:** SRI BALAJI FURNITURE AND HANDLOOM-6361090925; **HOSKOTE**: MAX FURNITURE-7200919183/8660843533; **KANAKAPURA ROAD**: LOTUS FURNITURE-9632066732; **KOTHANUR**: LUXURY HOMES 9845923522; **JC ROAD**: KOHINOOR TARPAULIN-9845124503; **RAMMURTHY NAGAR:** SHIVANSH HANDLOOM-9743533408; **HANUMANTH NAGAR:** HARYANA HANDLOOM-9900110005; **KENGERI**: PUNJAB HANDLOOM-9742303149; **BEGUR ROAD:** M S FURNITURE-9916688597; **RAJAKUNTE:** MAX FURN-8660843533; **YELAHANKA:** SRI MARUTHI FURNITURE-9886759000; **VIDYARANYAPURA:** A ONE FURNITURE-9743573558; **DODDABALAPUR**: SRI ANJANADRI FURNITURE-7892756810; **TIPTUR**: KUMAR & KUMAR-8105105678, **TUMKUR:**HILITE FURNITURE-7349016357.

TRADE ENQUIRY -9886789500 / 9481015244

SHRADHANJALI

अच्छेद्योऽयमदाह्योऽयमक्लेद्योऽशोष्य एव च |
नित्यः सर्वगतः स्थाणुरचलोऽयं सनातनः ||

The Self cannot be cut, nor can He be burnt;
He cannot be moistened, nor can He be dried.
The Self is undoubtedly eternal,
all-pervading, immovable and timeless.

Shri Pathi N Praveen

Attained the Lotus feet of
Lord Nanjundeshwara Swamy on **25th Oct, 2025.**

S/o. Smt. Sunanda and late Sri. Pathi A Nanda Kumar.
Fondly remembered by
Pathi Family.

PREDATOR IN PERIL

No wolf census for two decades in state amid dwindling numbers

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

For the last two decades, Karnataka has not conducted any comprehensive study or census of Indian grey wolves on its grasslands and semi-arid regions.

With the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) likely to recognise it as a new species and place it in the vulnerable category, there is renewed hope among researchers for better conservation of the top predator of the grassland. Like tigers, conservation of wolves will ensure a thriving grassland ecology that could retain and recharge groundwater tables and improve animal husbandry.

In 2001-04, when the last survey was conducted across the state by a team led by Honnavalli N Kumara, they had identified the presence of nearly 555 individual wolves in 19 districts of Karnataka. However, now the apex predators have lost several of their dwelling places and their pack size has also reduced drastically. Today, there is sporadic direct sighting of the wolves in only 12-13 north Karnataka districts. While there is no official data on adult wolves in Karnataka, experts working in the field estimate that there could be fewer than 400 wolves in the wild.

Experts say nearly 95% of the wolves in Karnataka are found in unprotected areas and face constant threat of diminishing prey base, human interaction and hybridisation.

"Lack of accurate data for two decades of a species that has lost its habitat significantly is a matter of concern. Without knowing their population, range and habitat, it would be difficult to formulate conservation strategies," says Kumara. He says several habitats that had earlier recorded the presence of wolves have not reported any direct or indirect sighting of the species for several years. He gives the example of Pavagada in Tumakuru and Melkote in Mandya, where wolves were once found in good numbers. In fact, Melkote Temple Wildlife Sanctuary (1974) was supposed to be the first wolf sanctuary in Karnataka.

However, for the last decade or so, experts haven't sighted a wolf in this region. Tens of wolves were hunted and culled in Pavagada taluk after the animals were 'blamed' for the disappearance of seven girls in the region. Human intervention, especially converting grasslands and barren semi-arid regions into agricultural fields following improvement in irrigation, has adversely impacted the population of wolves, as experts have recorded incidents of farmers destroying wolf dens and also killing wolf pups. Diminishing natural prey such as blackbuck and other smaller mammals has meant that wolves are forced to depend on sheep, further enhancing the chances of human-animal conflict. Windmills, solar parks and others have also encroached on wolves' roosting places. Salvador Lyngdoh, a scientist working on wolves of Kappatgudda in Gadag, says that over the years, during field observation, the sighting of wolves has been less common. "Even in protected areas such as Bankapur Wolf Sanctuary in Koppal, wolves are being sighted only when they litter pups. We don't know where these animals range and what their threats and prey are. For this, we need to conduct a survey and collar tag individuals," he says. Experts also said the size of wolf packs is reducing drastically. Vivekananda B, a forest watcher in Bidar, says that seven to eight years ago, he used to record wolf packs ranging from 10-13 individuals. "Now, the biggest pack that I have seen is five, two adults, one sub-adult and two pups," he says and adds that the lack of natural prey is forcing the adults to flee from the pack. Bidar, Koppal, Gadag, Raichur, Kalaburagi and Belagavi are some of the districts with sizable populations of wolves in Karnataka.

KPCL plans to use fly ash from Bidadi waste-to-energy plant for road construction

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU DHNS

Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) is planning to utilise the fly ash produced at the newly opened Waste-to-energy plant at Bidadi for the construction of roads.

The corporation, which was struggling to dispose of the fly ash, has now written to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), requesting them to test the fly ash and provide a feasibility report on the same.

According to senior KPCL officials, since November, when the plant began operations, close to 1.4 lakh metric tonnes of waste have been burnt to generate electricity and of this, close to 22,000 metric tonnes of bottom ash were produced and this has been transferred to the landfills.

"Compared to 1.5 lakh metric tonnes of waste ending up in landfill, 22,000 metric tonnes of ash is significantly less. However, we want to make the entire project green. Hence, we have asked the institutes to prepare a feasibility report on how fly ash can be used for construction," a senior KPCL official said.

According to the officials, the CRRI will construct an artificial road using the fly ash samples from the plant to test its feasibility. "They will construct a road out of the ash sent from the plant and conduct load testing and such other tests to determine if it is fit and can withstand the load of vehicles. Based on it, they will provide a feasibility report and guide us further on the use of fly ash," the official added.

Use of fly ash in the construction of roads could bring down the cost of raw materials by as much as 50%, the officials opined.

KPCL is spending close to Rs 42 lakh on the feasibility study.

The Waste-to-energy plant at Bidadi opened in November 2024 after years of delay. The plant has a capacity to process 600 tonnes of waste and produce 11.5 MW of energy a day. At present, 85% of the produced energy is being injected into the grid.

Kanaka Utsava to be annual event

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Kaginele Development Authority decided on Thursday to approve works worth Rs 34 crore and also conduct the Kanaka Utsava (celebrating the legacy of 16th-century saint Kanakadasa) every year in Kaginele.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah chaired a meeting of the authority, where he directed that the Utsava should have programmes that reflect the life objectives of visionaries.

It was suggested that programmes should be held through coordination between Kaginele Development Authority and the Kanaka Adhyayana Peetha. It was also decided to create a fund to continuously hold programmes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public, that my client **Mr. MOHAMMAD NAWAZ PASHA** and **Mr. MOHAMMAD SIDDIQUE, both are S/o Azaz Pasha,** R/at No.20, 2nd Main, Kushal Nagar, Kadugondanahalli Bangalore-560045. is intending purchase the immovable property as per absolute Sale Deed in the schedule hereunder from its owner "**Rajni, D/o Shivkanta Chathure**".

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable Residential property, Site No.**324,** formed in converted land bearing Sy. No. 92/3 converted for residential purposes vide order No. B.DIS.ALN.SR.(SA) 137/2001-2002 dated 03.09.2001 by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore district, House list Katha No. 246, situated at Thanisandra Village K.R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru District, measuring East to West 40 ft and North to South 30 ft, in all total 1200 square feet and it is bounded on: **East by:** Road, **West by:** site No. 319, **North by:** site No. 325, **South by:** site No. 323.

It is hereby informed to the general public that any person/s agent, Bank/s, Financial Institutions Etc., having any manner of claims, charge, mortgage, Right, Title and interest etc., in respect of the property described in the schedule are hereby requested to make the same known to the undersigned in writing supported by documents, as proof and evidence within a period of **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the claim of such person/s will be deemed to have been waived or abandoned and my client will be advised to go ahead and complete the sale formalities.

VINAYACHANDRA, Advocate
PVB & VC ASSOCIATES
#739/39, 1st Floor, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar 6th Block, Bengaluru-560010.
Mob:9481808490/8105668009
Email: vnylexjusticia@gmail.com

EOI NOTICE NO. NFR-SMMA-PR-2025 DATED: 28-10-2025

The Chief Public Relations Officer, N.F. Railway, Maligaon on behalf of President of India invites open tenders in two-packet system for Selection of Agency for Social Media Management & Media analysis on N.F. Railway for a period of two years.

Name of the Service/Work	Selection of Agency for Social Media Management & Media Analysis on Railway for a period of two years
Appx. Total Cost of Service/Work (with GST)	Rs. 3,38,42,400/- with @18% GST (Rs. Three Crore Thirty Eight Lakhs, Forty Two Thousand Four Hundred Only for two years).
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 3,19,212/- (Rs. Three Lakhs Nineteen Thousand Two Hundred Twelve only).
Cost of Tender Form	Rs. 10,000/- + @18% GST = Rs. 11,800/- (Non-Refundable) (Rs. Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Only)
Last Date/Time for Downloading of Application Form/ Bid Document	Upto 12.00 hrs. of 28-11-2025
Last Date/Time of Submission of Application Form/ Bid Document	Upto 13.00 hrs. of 28-11-2025
Date & Time of Opening of Tenders/ Bid Document	15.30 hrs. onwards on 28-11-2025
Venue for Tender Submission & opening	CPRO's Office, N.F. Railway, Maligaon, Guwahati-781011

All details has already been uploaded in the website. Please visit **www.nfr.indianrailways.gov.in → News & Updates → Notification** for downloading of Application / Bid document along with Eligibility Criteria and terms & conditions of the tender.

Chief Public Relations Officer

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(SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

NOTIFICATION

Bengaluru, 14th October 2025

S.O. 4668(E) - In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 20A of the Railway Act 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the central Government (Ministry of Railways, South western Railway, Construction Organization, Bengaluru Cantonment) after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which has been given in the schedule annexed hereto, is required for the execution of the 'Special Railway Project', in lieu of Level crossing No. 56 for construction of Two lane ROB with Service Road", in the state of Karnataka, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land:

Any person interested in the said land may, within Thirty days from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette, raise objection to the acquisition and use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of Section 20D of the said Act:

Every such objection shall be made to the 'Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer, Tumakuru-Rayadurga and Tumakuru-Davanagere Railway project, Tumakuru' for ROB / RUB's in lieu of level crossing No. 56 for construction of Two lane ROB with Service Road in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections:

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of Section 20D of the said Act shall be final:

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid Office of the Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer, Tumakuru-Rayadurga and Tumakuru-Davanagere Railway project, Tumakuru.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling with in the proposed Special Railway Project of bridges in lieu of Level crossing No. 56 for construction of Two-lane ROB with Service Road in the State of Karnataka.

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Owner Name	Enjoyment	Acquired Extent (In Acres - Guntas) Total (A-G)	A Kharab (A-G)	B Kharab (A-G)	Balance (A-G)	Classification of land
DISTRICT: TUMAKURU HOBLI: NITTUR							**TALUK: GUBBI VILLAGE: MATHIGATTA**	
1	57/6	N.B. Basavalingaiah S/o Basappa	N.B. Basavalingaiah S/o Basappa	0-01	-	-	0-01	Dry
2	57/6	N.B. Basavalingaiah S/o Basappa	N.B. Basavalingaiah S/o Basappa	0-01 1/2	-	-	0-01 1/2	Dry
				0-02 1/2	-	-	0-02 1/2	
DISTRICT: TUMAKURU HOBLI: NITTUR							**TALUK: GUBBI VILLAGE: BENACHAGERE**	
1	40 / Block 1	Government Land	Chikkanna S/o Kenchaiah, Kariyamma	0-09	-	-	0-08 3/4	Dry
2	40 / Block 2	Government Land	Gowramma W/o Late Doddaiah	0-03 1/2	-	-	0-03 1/2	Dry
3	40 / Block 3	Government Land	Veerabhadraiah, Bhagyamma	0-04 3/4	-	0-00 1/4	0-04 1/2	Dry
4	41	Lakshmidevamma W/o Late Seebaiah, Veeranna S/o Late Seebaiah, Doddaiah S/o Late Seebaiah	Lakshmidevamma W/o Late Seebaiah, Veeranna S/o Late Seebaiah, Doddaiah S/o Late Seebaiah	0-01 3/4	-	-	0-01 3/4	Dry
5	41	Lakshmidevamma W/o Late Seebaiah, Veeranna S/o Late Seebaiah	Lakshmidevamma W/o Late Seebaiah, Veeranna S/o Late Seebaiah, Doddaiah S/o Late Seebaiah	0-01 3/4	-	-	0-01 3/4	Dry
6	42	Revaiah S/o Narasaiah	Revaiah S/o Narasaiah	0-01 1/4	-	-	0-01 1/4	Dry
7	42	Revaiah S/o Narasaiah	Revaiah S/o Narasaiah	0-01 1/4	-	-	0-01 1/4	Dry
8	43	Government Land	Revaiah S/o Narasaiah	0-02	-	-	0-02	Dry
9	43	Government Land	Revaiah S/o Narasaiah	0-02	-	-	0-02	Dry
10	54	B.S. Linganna S/o Shivanna, S. Bhagya W/o Siddalingaiah	Gowramma D/o Doddaiah	0-00 3/4	-	-	0-00 3/4	Dry
11	54	B.S. Linganna S/o Shivanna, S. Bhagya W/o Siddalingaiah	Lokesh S/o Revanna	0-04	-	-	0-04	Dry
12	54	B.S. Linganna S/o Shivanna, S. Bhagya W/o Siddalingaiah	Siddaramaiah S/o Revanna	0-05	-	-	0-05	Dry
13	54	B.S. Linganna S/o Shivanna, S. Bhagya W/o Siddalingaiah	Suvarnamma W/o Mahalingaiah, Siddaramaiah S/o Mahalingaiah	0-03	-	-	0-03	Dry
14	54	B.S. Linganna S/o Shivanna, S. Bhagya W/o Siddalingaiah	Suvarnamma W/o Mahalingaiah, Siddaramaiah S/o Mahalingaiah	0-03 1/2	-	-	0-03 1/2	Dry
15	54	B.S. Linganna S/o Shivanna, S. Bhagya W/o Siddalingaiah	Lokamma, Narasimharmurthy S/o Late Kalaiah	0-01 1/4	-	-	0-01 1/4	Dry
16	121	Mathiga S/o Nanja, Rangaswamaiah S/o Chinnaiah, Shivanna S/o Chinnaiah, Chandraiah S/o Chinnaiah Kenchaiah S/o Rangaiah, Ranganarasamma W/o Gangaiah	Bhagyamma W/o Siddalingaiah	0-02 1/4	-	0-01 3/4	0-00 1/2	Dry
17	121	Mathiga S/o Nanja, Rangaswamaiah S/o Chinnaiah, Shivanna S/o Chinnaiah, Chandraiah S/o Chinnaiah, Kenchaiah S/o Rangaiah, Ranganarasamma W/o Gangaiah	Bhagyamma W/o Siddalingaiah	0-02	-	-	0-02	Dry
18	121	Mathiga S/o Nanja, Rangaswamaiah S/o Chinnaiah, Shivanna S/o Chinnaiah, Chandraiah S/o Chinnaiah, Kenchaiah S/o Rangaiah, Rangarasamma W/o Gangaiah	B.S. Linganna S/o Shivanna	0-03 3/4	-	-	0-03 3/4	Dry
19	121	Mathiga S/o Nanja, Rangaswamaiah S/o Chinnaiah, Shivanna S/o Chinnaiah, Chandraiah S/o Chinnaiah, Kenchaiah S/o Rangaiah, Rangarasamma W/o Gangaiah	B.S. Linganna S/o Shivanna	0-05	-	0-00 1/4	0-04 3/4	Dry
20	122	Shivananjaiah S/o Late Basavaiah, Shivanna, Chandraiah S/o Chinnaiah, Rangaswamaiah	Chikkanna S/o Kenchaiah	0-00 1/4	-	-	0-00 1/4	Dry
21	122	Shivananjaiah S/o Late Basavaiah, Shivanna, Chandraiah S/o Chinnaiah, Rangaswamaiah	Chikkanna S/o Kenchaiah	0-00 3/4	-	-	0-00 3/4	Dry
22	122	Shivananjaiah S/o Late Basavaiah, Shivanna, Chandraiah S/o Chinnaiah, Rangaswamaiah	Chikkamma W/o Late Doddaiah	0-00 3/4	-	-	0-00 3/4	Dry
23	122	Shivananjaiah S/o Late Basavaiah, Shivanna, Chandraiah S/o Chinnaiah, Rangaswamaiah	Bhadraiah S/o Kenchaiah	0-00 3/4	-	-	0-00 3/4	Dry
24	122	Shivananjaiah S/o Late Basavaiah, Shivanna, Chandraiah S/o Chinnaiah, Rangaswamaiah	Narasimhaiah S/o Kenchaiah	0-00 3/4	-	-	0-00 3/4	Dry
25	122	Shivananjaiah S/o Late Basavaiah, Shivanna, Chandraiah S/o Chinnaiah, Rangaswamaiah	Ranganarasamma W/o Late Gangaiah	0-01 3/4	-	-	0-01 3/4	Dry
	Total			**1-22 3/4**	**-**	**0-02 1/2**	**1-20 1/4**	

ABSTRACT

Village	Classification of land	Acquired Extent (In Acres – Guntas) Total (A-G)	A Kharab (A-G)	B Kharab (A-G)	Balance (A-G)
Mathighatta	Dry	0-02 1/2	-	-	0-02 1/2
Benachagere	Dry	01-22 3/4	-	0-02 1/2	01-20 1/4
Total		**01-25 1/4**	**-**	**0-02 1/2**	**01-22 3/4**

No. W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727

(Pardeep Puri)
Chief Engineer-III/Construction/
South Western Railway, Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/582/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on Behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms / contractor for the following works: **Tender Notice No.:** 26-2025-Sr.DENS. **Name of Work:** Annual Maintenance contract for carry out AMC for overhauling, Major repairing replacement of spare parts for Small Track Machines of Solapur Division for the year 2025-26 & 26-27. **Approximate Cost of the work:** Rs. 66,57,432.10 **Earnest Money:** Rs. 1,33,200/- **Completion period of the work:** 24 Months. **Maintenance Period:** NA. **Last date & Time of uploading quoted tender on www.ireps.gov.in website:** 11/11/2025 upto 15:00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in:** 11/11/2025 at 15:30 hrs. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in**

DRM (W), Solapur 68

असुरक्षित तथा अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन के पास कार्य करना दंडनीय अपराध है

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
TENDER NOTICE No. 28-2025-SrDENS

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms / contractor for the following works: **Name of Work:** Repairs to existing N type truss FOBs and other FOBs under ADEN/KLBG sub division. **Approximate Cost of the work:** Rs. 1,63,53,005.42. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 2,31,800/- **Completion period of the work:** 12 Months. **Maintenance Period:** 06 Months. Last date & time of uploading quoted tender on **www.ireps.gov.in website: 19/11/2025 up to 15:00 hrs.** Date & Time of Opening of tender on **www.ireps.gov.in - 19/11/2025 at 15:30 hrs.** The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in**

DRM (W), Solapur 69

अपने जानवरों को रेल लाइन से दूर रखे

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 222-S/1/W-II Date: 23.10.2025, Following e-tenders are invited online by the Divisional Engineer/II, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 for the following works : **Tender No.: TN-131-25-26; Name of the Work :** Zonal works for General repairs and maintenance of service buildings, staff quarters, Gate lodges and others new minor works etc. Sonarpur [excluding] to Diamond Harbour under Section Engineer/ Works/ Sonarpur in the jurisdiction of Assistant Engineer/ Baruipur. [Zone No.11 for the period ending 30.06.2026].; **Tender Value :** Rs. 68,00,000.00; **EMD :** Rs. 1,36,000.00; **Date & Time of Closing of Tender:** 18.11.2025 at 15.00 hrs. ; **Completion period of the work :** 08 (Eight) Months for all tenders; **Date & Time of Opening of Tender:** 18.11.2025 at 15.00 hrs. As per Indian Railway Standard General Conditions of Contract 2022 cost of e-Tender Form is Nil. The Tender documents and details are at **www.ireps.gov.in** The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through the e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected.

(SDAH-239/2025-26)
Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway
@easternrailwayheadquarter

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of E-Tender Notice No. B/TRD.2025-26/23 Dated: 23-10-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
OHE Modification in connection with proposed GCT siding work of M/s BPCL Ltd., at Devangonthi Station	Rs. 2,01,55,170.83

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 13-11-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD
PUB/585/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Bengaluru**

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
Electrical Department
E-TENDER NOTICE

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, General, Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & Licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No. SUR/L/T/2025/21. Name of work:** Electrical general service portion of work in connection with replacement of all conventional ceiling fans with energy efficient BLDC fans situated at various staff quarters, administrative offices/ service buildings; Station buildings over Solapur Division. **Estimated cost:** Rs. 88,78,056.66/- **Bid Security:** Rs. 1,77,600/- **Completion Period:** 09 Months **Validity of offer:** 60 Days. **Date & time of tender closing on website:** 21/11/2025 at 15.00 hours. Bid Security cost shall be paid through e-payment on **www.ireps.gov.in** website.

SrDEE (G), Solapur 70

अपने जानवरों को रेल लाइन से दूर रखे

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

NOTIFICATION

Bengaluru, 17th October 2025

S.O.4746(E) - In exercise of the powers conferred by clause 37(A) of Section 2 of the Railways Act, 1989 (Act no. 24 of 1989) the Ministry of Railway (South Western Railway, Construction Organization, Bengaluru Cantonment) hereby notifies the project, as "Special Railway Project" mentioned in the table below, in the State of Karnataka for providing National Infrastructure for a Public Purpose with effect from date of publication of the notification in the Official Gazette.

TABLE

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Village	Taluk	District
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	Construction of additional loopline on Down main line side at Kyatsandra Goods station (KDAG).	Basavapatna and Thimlapura	Tumakuru	Tumakuru

No.: W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727

(Pardeep Puri)
Chief Engineer-III/Construction/
South Western Railway, Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/587/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

Transport minister orders safety audit of all RTC buses

Strict checks to prevent transport of flammable goods

BENGALURU, DHNS

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has ordered a safety audit of all buses operated by Road Transport Corporations (RTCs) in Karnataka.

He said strict vigilance must be maintained to ensure that no easily flammable or explosive materials are transported as commercial goods or luggage in buses. All air-conditioned buses must have hammers to break windows in case of emergencies. No person should be allowed to sleep in luggage compartments. The condition and maintenance of buses must also be reviewed, he wrote in a letter to the managing directors of the state's four RTCs.

If any lapses are found, strict action should be taken without hesitation against those responsible, he added.

"Passenger safety is our top priority, and the loss of life in any form is unacceptable. Therefore, teams should be immediately constituted to conduct a safety audit of all buses and take appropriate action accordingly," he stated.

The letter came days after the Kurnool bus accident that killed 19 passengers. The bus caught fire due to a fuel leak after crashing with a two-wheeler. It was transporting 234 mobile phones, whose batteries exploded, worsening the deadly blaze.

Reddy recalled the deadly accident involving a Jabbar Travels bus in 2013 that left dozens of passengers dead.

Reddy, who was also the transport minister at the time, said he had launched a statewide campaign to inspect around 50,000 vehicles (including RTC, contract carriage and private tourist buses, tempo travellers and school vehicles) to ensure that emergency exit doors were mandatorily installed and functioning properly. The drive revealed several lapses, leading to the compulsory installation of emergency exits in all buses, he said.

KSRTC issues directive

The KSRTC will conduct training programmes for its staff on measures to be followed during bus fires. All senior and divisional control officers must submit compliance reports by November 10.

All premium night buses must have two 5-litre fire extinguishers. All FDSS (Fire Detection and Suppression System) and FAPS (Fire Alarm and Protection System) should always work effectively, with drivers trained in their use.

Drivers of buses with FDAS (Fire Detection and Alarm System) should know how to press the emergency button to trigger audible alarms; panic buttons must be operational or installed immediately.

Electrical wiring and battery cut-off switches should be checked daily, with sleeves and rubber grommets fitted to prevent short circuits. AC buses must have window-breaking hammers, and their absence should be rectified before operation. Lighting mosquito coils in buses at night is banned.

Emergency and passenger doors must function properly. Drivers must be cautioned against carrying flammable or prohibited materials. Workshops involving fire and police officials will be held twice daily for drivers.

Audio-visual messages at bus stations will remind passengers not to carry flammable items. The Mechanical Department will circulate a safety checklist, while tickets will display fire-safety messages. Technical teams will inspect divisions, and non-compliance will attract disciplinary action.

COLOURFUL CELEBRATIONS

People take part in a religious procession organised to mark Sahasrarjun Maharaj Jayanti in Hubballi on Wednesday. It is a festival that marks the birth anniversary of Sahasrarjun, a legendary king and warrior mentioned in Hindu mythology. PTI PHOTO

Swiss firms positive on partnership for Quantum City: Boseraju

BENGALURU, DHNS: Science and Technology Minister N S Boseraju said on Wednesday that Swiss companies and key research institutions in the Quantum technology sector had responded positively to partnership opportunities in the proposed Quantum City here.

Boseraju—who recently led an official delegation of the state government to Switzerland—told a news conference here that they gave a presentation of the proposed Quantum City there.

The government has already allotted 6.17 acres of land at Hesaraghatta for the project, which will focus on quantum research, hardware production, startups, academic-industry collaboration and so on.

Boseraju, also minor irrigation minister, said he had officially invited global companies to invest in Karnataka.

He said the government was taking several initiatives to establish Bengaluru as the global focal point for the Quantum sector.

"Discussions on the city's development were held with representatives from leading global Quantum research institutions, including ETH Zurich and CERN," he said, adding that Karnataka, in collaboration with Indian Institute of Science (IISc), had launched courses to develop skilled Quantum human resources.

"Dr Michael Hengartner, president of ETH Zurich Board, responded positively to our request for cooperation in research projects," he said.

CM collected Rs 300 cr to fund Bihar polls: Sriramulu

CHITRADURGA, PTI: Senior BJP leader B Sriramulu on Wednesday accused Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of collecting Rs 300 crore from state ministers to fund the Congress party's campaign in the Bihar Assembly polls, allegedly to "save his chair".

He claimed that the amount was raised during a recent dinner meeting hosted by the CM. "Siddaramaiah's chair is probably shaking. He is going to Delhi on Nov 15. He is making efforts to save his chair. We will have to see what revolution happens after November 15," he told reporters.

Hitting back, Deputy CM D K Shivakumar said in Bengaluru, "Sriramulu has given funds to the Congress party; we have sent the same funds (for the Bihar polls)."

'PM will dance': Rahul Gandhi stirs up Bihar poll pot

Rahul, from Page 1

"Rahul Gandhi speaks like a 'Local Goon'. He has openly insulted every poor (person) of India & Bihar who has voted for PM," Bhandari posted on X.

The saffron party's election in-charge in Bihar, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, said Rahul's remarks were a "big insult" to the public faith in Chhath Puja and have deeply hurt the sentiments of crores of devotees. "Rahul Gandhi's remarks reflect his hatred for Sanatan culture and also expose the Congress party's deep-seated hatred and frustration against Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he posted on X.

Earlier, addressing a poll rally in Darbhanga, Rahul attacked Modi over US Prez Donald Trump's repeated claim that he had brokered a ceasefire between India and Pakistan in May.

"Trump is insulting him (Modi) daily in different countries. He says Modi has no guts and he has made him bow before him. Modi never once said that Trump is speaking nonsense and lying," the Congress leader said.

"One who cannot tell the American president on his face that 'you are lying', he cannot do anything in Bihar," he added.

Rahul also slammed BJP and EC but remained relatively soft on CM Nitish Kumar.

"The BJP, in collusion with EC, stole the elections in Maharashtra and Haryana. They will do their best to do so in Bihar as well," he said. He said he agreed with Tejashwi who had said that Nitish's JD (U) had been hijacked and Bihar was being run through remote control. "Three persons, with remote in their hands, are running Bihar. Tejashwi is right when he says Nitish ji has been 'hijacked' by his select aides," said Rahul.

(With agency inputs)

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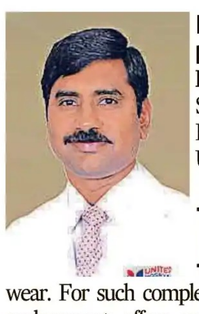
Robotic technology transforms knee replacement surgery

The symmetrical alignment and balanced implant positioning, along with better soft tissue protection and reduced trauma with robotic-assisted total knee replacement surgery leads to better outcome and quicker recovery, especially in complicated cases



Ideal procedure for complex post-traumatic knees
Dr Lingaraju A P
Senior Consultant - Orthopedics and Joint Replacement Surgeon
United Hospital, Bengaluru

Patients with a history of fractures or ligament injuries often develop early-onset arthritis due to uneven joint wear. For such complex post-traumatic knees, robotic-assisted knee replacement offers unmatched precision. This technology helps surgeons plan and execute bone cuts with millimetric accuracy, even in distorted anatomy.

Recently, I treated a 55-year-old man with severe knee deformity from an old sports injury - robotic guidance ensured perfect alignment and stability. His recovery was smooth, and within weeks, he could climb stairs without discomfort. This innovation allows us to restore natural motion and confidence in patients once told surgery was too risky.

Minimises surgical trauma and improves outcomes
Dr Samarth Arya
Consultant - Orthopaedics
Manipal Hospital, Bengaluru

Managing diabetic patients with knee arthritis requires careful planning, as wound healing and recovery are often challenging. Robotic-assisted total knee replacement offers greater accuracy, minimising surgical trauma and improving outcomes.

One of my patients, a 62-year-old diabetic woman, struggled to walk even short distances before surgery. Post-procedure, she reported remarkable pain relief and resumed her daily walks within weeks. The technology ensures better soft tissue protection and alignment, which reduces post-operative complications - a crucial benefit for diabetic individuals. It's gratifying to see such patients regain mobility and independence with confidence, without compromising their health or safety.

Quicker and smoother recovery process
Dr V G Rajan
Consultant - Orthopedics and Sports Medicine
Totalkare Knee and Sports Injury Clinic, Bengaluru

Patients requiring bilateral knee replacement often worry about pain and prolonged rehabilitation. Robotic-assisted surgery has significantly changed this outlook. By enabling symmetrical alignment and balanced implant positioning in both knees, the recovery process becomes smoother and more predictable.

I recently treated a 70-year-old gentleman who underwent bilateral robotic-assisted replacement. Within six weeks, he was walking comfortably without support. The reduced soft tissue trauma and enhanced accuracy translate to less discomfort and faster mobility gains. Such advancements are transforming how we approach complex cases - offering safer, more efficient solutions for patients needing comprehensive joint restoration.

Long-lasting results in cases of severe deformity
Dr Mithun N Oswal
Joint Replacement Surgeon - Arthroscopy, Trauma and Sport Medicine
Parshwa Ortho and Women's Care Centre, Bengaluru

Patients with advanced arthritis and severe knee deformities often face challenges in achieving proper alignment through traditional surgery. Robotic-assisted knee replacement has transformed outcomes for such cases by enabling precise preoperative planning and real-time adjustments during surgery.

I recently treated a 63-year-old woman with a significant bow-legged deformity who struggled with constant pain and restricted movement. Using robotic guidance, we achieved perfect implant alignment and joint balance, which significantly improved her mobility. Within a month, she resumed her regular routine with minimal discomfort. This level of precision ensures long-lasting results and renewed confidence in patients with complex knee conditions.

Disclaimer: The views/suggestions/ opinions expressed in the article are the sole responsibility of the brand concerned. This should not be considered a substitute for medical advice. Please consult your treating physician for more details.

2 decades on, safe shelters elude flood-hit families

VITTAL SHASTRI
KALABURAGI, DHNS

Dilapidated houses built for flood victims in Mandarwad village of Jewargi taluk. DH PHOTO

Two decades on, and after spending thousands of crores of rupees to rebuild lives and houses, safe housing for flood victims remains largely unfulfilled. In flood-prone districts such as Kalaburagi, Kodagu, Gadag and Raichur, rehabilitation colonies built for vulnerable and displaced families now stand mostly deserted.

In these districts, flood-hit families have refused to move into the new houses, citing substandard construction quality, lack of basic amenities including drinking water supply, and inadequate space to accommodate their livestock, farm equipment and agricultural harvest. Many have instead chosen to repair and stay in their old, flood-prone homes.

In Kalaburagi district, for instance, residents of 88 flood-ravaged villages still hesitate to move into the new houses built for them. In Jewargi's Mandarwad, 100 houses were constructed on an adjacent hillock after the 2019 floods. Today, only 15 are occupied.

"We do not want the meagre government compensation or relief materials provided by donors, as they are only temporary measures. What we need are new, good-quality houses, because every monsoon we spend sleepless nights with the recurring floods caused by the overflowing Bhima River," said Devakki Naikwadi, a farm labourer from Jewargi's Kobal village.

Residents complain that the new houses are built on just 500 sqft while the allotted plots are around 1,500 sqft.

In Kodagu, where heavy rains and landslides in 2018 displaced thousands, over 800 houses were sanctioned, yet many remain unoccupied due to bad roads and lack of transport. Title deeds for about 100 houses are still pending due to unresolved objections.

Assistant commissioner Nithin Chakki said the tahsildar and other officials will be directed to inspect bad roads and the lack of transportation by visiting the spot. He also said problems will be resolved after receiving the report.

Following the devastating 2009 floods that killed over 200 people in North Karnataka, the state government launched the Aasare scheme, constructing over one lakh homes with donor support. Nearly half of the over 300 identified flood-prone villages were shifted to these homes.

However, many of these vacant homes are now in ruins, with leaky roofs and crumbling walls. Some have been converted into cattle sheds, while others have become hubs for illicit activities and overrun by vegetation.

"The government allotted one house per ration card, regardless of family size, after the 2019 floods," said Yunus Baba, a resident of Kudi village in Jewargi taluk. "As a result, many large joint families chose to stay in their old houses despite the recurring floods."

Kalaburagi deputy commissioner Fouzia Taranum said the administration has analysed 20 years of flood data to identify villages for relocation. "Villagers must move to safer locations once new houses are built under the rehabilitation plans," she said.

'Is it a matrimonial project?' Surya slams DKS over tunnel

Surya, from Page 1

"Instead of starting new ones, the government should complete the pending ones first," Surya said.

"A developed country is not a place where the poor use cars, but where the rich use public transport," Surya stated, quoting a famous line.

He described the proposed tunnel road project as "unscientific and disastrous" accusing the government of acting in undue haste to complete the detailed project report (DPR) without conducting an environment impact study or preparing the drainage design, disaster management plan and traffic projections for 25 years. "The soil data is incomplete and the borelog data is insufficient," he said.

"The BJP will not just fight against the project legally but will also launch a people's movement to stop it," he added, referring to his public interest litigation (PIL) that is listed for hearing in the Karnataka High Court on December 9.

The government, he said, has claimed that 37% of traffic has reduced at Silk Board after the opening of the Yellow Line, and peak-hour congestion along the Purple Line has fallen by 12–14%.

"This shows that people using cars are shifting towards the metro. When this is the reality, why is the government focusing only on the tunnel road?" he asked, questioning how just 18 km of road could magically solve Bengaluru's congestion.

Surya instead urged the government to ensure that Bengaluru gets a 317-km Metro network by 2031 as envisaged in the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP). "This will help citizens access a metro station within five minutes. And if this is made possible, there will be no traffic congestion," he said, adding the government must discourage the use of private vehicles.

"Let us build Bengaluru for people, not for contractors and cars."

According to the plan, he said the tunnel road is expected to save travel time by a meagre 13 minutes in 2031 and 15 minutes in 2041. "Such a massive investment is not justified," he argued.

Surya instead suggested building modern trams, which is a cost-effective and scalable mass rapid transit system and can carry up to 15,000 passengers per hour. He also said that more people in Bengaluru die due to road-related accidents than terrorist attacks in the country.

"This must be addressed by improving footpaths and ensuring pothole-free roads," he added.

Couple held after 'road accident' turns out to be deliberate hit

Road rage, from Page 1

The video, accessed by *DH*, shows the speeding car — a hatchback — ploughing into the scooter, throwing the riders off.

"The suspects later returned to the accident scene wearing masks and collected broken parts of their car to destroy evidence," said Lokesh B Jagalasar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South).

Convinced that it was an intentional hit, the higher-ups transferred the case to the Puttenahalli police, who arrested the couple.

Further investigation found that the couple was returning home after servicing their car when the victims rode up in their scooter in the opposite direction, brushing against the automobile's right rearview mirror. A heated argument followed, and the couple chased the duo down and rammed into their scooter.

Police have booked the couple under BNS sections 103(1) (punishment for murder), 109 (attempted murder), 238 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender) and 324(5) (mischief).

NOTICE FOR ROLLING ADVERTISEMENT FOR TEACHING FACULTY POSTS

The Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya, invites applications from eligible personnel for the posts of Professor & Associate Professor on a contract basis in these various disciplines for the proposed Shillong Medical College targeted to be operational during 2025-26 Academic Year:

Department	Professors	Associate Professors
1. Anatomy	Nil	1
2. Physiology	1	1
3. Pharmacology	1	Nil
4. Pathology	1	Nil
5. Microbiology	Nil	1
6. Forensic Medicine	1	Nil
7. Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	Nil

Applications will be accepted starting from 30th October, 2025 and must be submitted on or before 20th November, 2025 by 05:00 PM under the rolling advertisement process.
For detailed advertisement, including eligibility criteria, application form and other instructions, please visit the official website of the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya: https://meghealth.gov.in

Sd/-
MIPR No. : 2021
Dated : 29/10/2025
Under Secretary to the Govt of Meghalaya
Health & Family Welfare Department.

SC rejects Kaneri Mutt pontiff's plea against externment order

'You should sit in some other place and do Sadhana'

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected a plea by the 49th Mathadhipati (pontiff) of the Shri Siddhagiri Mahasansthan Math, Kaneri, Kolhapur, Maharashtra, against an externment order issued against him by Vijayapura's Deputy Commissioner on October 15, 2025, for use of alleged derogatory and defamatory language.

A bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and Prasanna B Varale noted that certain remarks were made, which can disturb the communal harmony, which is why the order was passed.

"Why do you insist upon entering the district? India is such a big country, you go somewhere else," the bench asked senior advocate Raghavendra S Srivatsa, appearing for the petitioner.

The counsel said initially the order was issued by Vijayapura district administration, but emboldened by the dismissal of his writ petition by the Karnataka High Court on October 17, another order was issued Bagalkot district authorities for him to leave the place within one hour.

He said the approach of the High Court is defective. Fundamental freedom under Article 19 of the Constitution can't be curtailed if somebody says abusive language was used, the counsel contended.

"You are a religious leader; you have to be very careful while speaking. Don't give any speech which flares up communal passion," the bench told the counsel, who claimed the action was taken at the instance of certain Lingayat religious leaders who have got the state's patronage. Such leaders used all kinds of derogatory language against Hindu deities, he alleged.

"Don't go to the district for a period of two months," the bench told the counsel, who complained that the state authorities wanted to banish him from all the districts.

"If you behave in such a manner, every district magistrate will banish you," the court told the counsel.

"If your acts are disturbing the public peace, the Collector or Commissioner is empowered to banish you," the court told him.

"It is an opportunity for you to stay away and indulge in spiritual things. You should sit in some other math and do Sadhana. Why do you insist on going to this particular district?" the bench asked him.

The counsel submitted that the speech by the petitioner was made on October 9 and the externment order was passed on October 15. There are other sets of religious leaders who were spreading the separatist notion, he alleged.

The court said it was not inclined to interfere with the order issued by the district authorities of Vijayapura.

"We clarify the petitioner would be free to enter the district after December 14, 2025, until and unless there is a specific order restraining his entry thereafter," the bench said.

The court also said the order passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Vijayapura, under Section 163(3) of BNSS should not form the only basis of passing any further order.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh and Karnataka's Additional Advocate General Nishanth Patil and Aman Panwar appeared for the Karnataka government.

D'sthala: Reports confirm skeletal remains are of males

Thimarody, Mattannavar yet to appear before SIT

MANGALURU, DHNS

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Dharmasthala mass burial case has reportedly received three Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) reports related to the skeletal remains recovered from sites 6, 13A, and Banglegudde near the Snanaghatta area of Dharmasthala village.

According to the SIT sources, all three sets of skeletal remains have been confirmed to be of male individuals.

Sources informed *DH* that the FSL reports primarily describe the physical characteristics and condition of the remains but do not include DNA analysis results. Since control DNA samples from possible family members are unavailable, DNA profiling to establish the identities of the deceased could not be carried out.

"The report outlines the nature of the skeletal remains, but without reference to DNA samples, further analysis is not possible," a source said.

Officials also clarified that the SIT has not yet received formal instructions to submit its final investigation report. "If required, we are ready to submit a status report that has been regularly updated with the latest findings," the source added.

Meanwhile, the SIT is awaiting the appearance of Mahesh Shetty Thimarody, Jayant T, Girish Mattannavar, and Vittal for questioning.

"We expect them to appear before the team soon. If they fail to do so, another round of notices will be issued to all four," the source said.

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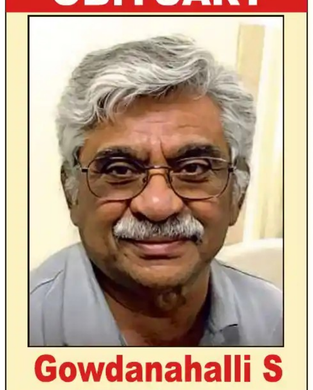


Gowdanahalli S Lakshman
Attained Sadgathi on 29.10.2025 at 11.40 am
OM SHANTHI
Family & Friends.
Mob: 94484 89238

OBITUARY

MRS. E. JACOB
wife of late Mr. E. V. Jacob,
Passed away on 29th October at 10:00 a.m. at her residence, No. 106, ITI New Layout, Benson Town, Bengaluru – 560046. Funeral prayers will be held at the residence on 30th October at 2:00 p.m., and thereafter at St. Gregorios Cathedral, Hosur Road, at 3:00 p.m., followed by interment at Hosur Road Cemetery, at Gate No. 3.
She is survived by her children Susan, Georgie, and Reena, sons-in-law Abe and Mohan, daughter-in-law Sweety, and grandchildren.

Don't finalise 3rd round allotment of med & dental seats: HC to KEA

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday directed the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) not to finalise the third-round allotment of medical and dental seats until October 30 (Thursday). A division bench comprising Justices Jayant Banerji and K V Aravind passed the interim direction in a batch of petitions filed by the students while adjourning the hearing to Thursday.

The petitioners contended that less meritorious students, based on their NEET rank, had been allotted seats in the provisional list. It was argued that the procedure and criteria adopted for allotment in the third round of counselling had not been declared in the Admission Information Bulletin-2025 and were contrary to the procedure adopted for allotment of all-India quota seats in all government colleges.

OUT OF DANGER'S WAY

Fishing boats pulled ashore in the wake of Cyclone Montha in Mangaluru on Wednesday. PTI PHOTO

PM Modi to visit Udupi Krishna Mutt on Nov 28

UDUPI, PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Krishna Mutt here on Nov 28, Paryaya Puthige Mutt seer Sugunendra Teertha Swami said on Wednesday.

According to the seer, during his visit, the PM is expected to interact with devotees, participate in religious rituals, and address issues of public interest.

Preparations are already underway at the mutt and in surrounding areas.

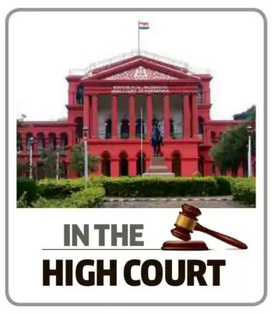
"Modi will take part in the 'Laksha Geeta Pathana' event, where over one lakh people will recite the Bhagavad Gita in unison. He will also visit the Krishna temple and have a darshan of lord Krishna," the seer said.

Modi last visited Udupi in 2008, when he was the Gujarat CM.

"This is the second time he is visiting the Krishna temple, and both times, I have been the administrative (Paryaya) Swami of the mutt," he said.

Employee suicide case: HC asks Ola founder, others to cooperate in probe

Extends interim protection for petitioners till Nov 17



BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka high court on Wednesday asked Bhavish Aggarwal, CEO and MD of Ola Electric Technologies Private Limited, and Subrat Kumar Das, Head of Homologation Engineering to cooperate in the investigation against them in a criminal case registered for abetment to suicide of K Aravind, one of the engineers of the company.

Justice Mohammad Nawaz also extended till November 17 the interim protection, directing the police not to harass the petitioners in the guise of investigation.

The court was hearing the petition filed by the petitioners challenging the FIR registered by the Subramanyapura police in connection with the death of K Aravind, an employee with the Ola. The FIR was for offence under section 108 of BNS based on the complaint by Ashwin Kannan, brother of the deceased employee K Aravind.

During the hearing, senior advocate M S Shyamsundar, appearing for the petitioners, claimed that the death note/suicide note by the deceased is not true. He said the note may be narrated by the complainant in the case, the brother of the deceased. It was further claimed that the interviews and photographs of the death circulated by the complainant had adversely affected the company's image and business, with share prices crashing and leading to exodus of the employees.

On the other hand, P Prasanna Kumar, counsel for the complainant, termed that the company (Ola Electric Technologies Private Limited) is worse than the East India company. "They (petitioners) cannot make such allegations against the complainant. Let the police investigate as to who has written it (suicide note)," he said.

Meanwhile, Additional State Public Prosecutor B N Jagadeesh submitted that the petitioners are only sending letters when police issued notices requiring their appearance for the investigation. The court asked the petitioners to cooperate with the investigation.

"There is already a direction of this court, that is, not to harass the petitioners in the guise of investigation. That direction shall continue. The petitioners shall cooperate with the investigation of the case. If any final report against the petitioners is filed, the same can be challenged also," the court said.

PIL on bias over CMIDP funds: HC notice to govt, Bagalkot DC

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court on Wednesday ordered notice to the state government and DC of Bagalkot in a PIL filed by Jagadeesh Shivayya Gudagunti, alleging discriminatory allocation of funds.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Poonacha sought a response from the respondents while directing the matter to be listed on January 31.

The petition claimed discrimination in the allocation of funds under the Rs 8,000-crore CM's Infrastructure Development Programme (CMIDP) to constituencies represented by legislators of opposition parties. The petition contended that the allocations of funds were being made in violation of Article 14 (right to equality) as well as Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined under Articles 38 and 39 of the Constitution. According to the petitioner, the CMIDP, introduced in the 2025–26 budget, provides Rs 50 crore for development works in constituencies represented by Congress MLAs and only Rs 25 crore to those constituencies represented by MLAs of opposition parties.

The petition said constituencies in Bagalkot district, such as Mudhol, Bilagi, Badami, Bagalkot and Hungund, are allocated Rs 50 crore under CMIDP as they are represented by the ruling party MLAs. The petitioner said the same yardstick is being adopted in other constituencies. This will create inequality in facilities and the creation of opportunities to the Jamkhandi, the petitioner said.

'Withdraw order against use of public spaces for meetings'

BENGALURU, DHNS: The 'campaign for right to protest' has written to the government requesting it to withdraw its order regarding restrictions on use of public spaces for meetings, rallies and gatherings across the state.

The group opined that the High Court's decision to stay the order was well within the constitutional framework and expressed concerns over CM's statement that the government would appeal against this stay order.

The order was 'brought in haste and had the potential to disrupt all public democratic activities,' they said.

Instead of introducing such new orders and rules, the letter suggested that the government should implement existing rules and orders.

"While we share the concern about organisations such as RSS, we believe such actions should be addressed through existing legal provisions, not by curtailing democratic freedoms of all citizens. For instance there was already a circular issued by the Jagadish Shettar government prohibiting the use of schools for non-educational purposes," the letter said.

It urged the government to consult civil society groups, experts and citizens before issuing any new regulations 'affecting freedom of assembly or expression'.

OLD TECH, NEW TACT

M'luru police commissioner's daily wireless conference keeps force fired up

Morning pep talk transmits mass instructions, helps share intel

HARSHA
MANGALURU, DHNS:

As the clock struck 9 in the morning at Bunder police station, a cop on duty gesturing silence tuned the wireless set to listen to Mangaluru Commissioner of Police Sudheer Kumar Reddy's 'pep talk'.

For the next 20 to 30 minutes, Reddy talks about cases, court hearings scheduled that day, VIP movements, posts on social media, offers guidance and encourages his subordinates to share information.

"As the commissioner sir gives clear directions based on his vast knowledge on all subjects, I find the talk inspirational and look forward to it daily," the cop told *DH*.

The first-of-its-kind 'wireless conference' reaches 60% to 70% of Mangaluru city commissionerate's 1,300-strong force.

"Some top officers conduct morning meetings with officials via conventional modes like video-conferencing, which has a limited reach," a senior inspector serving in the police commissioner's office said.

SUDHEER KUMAR REDDY
Mangaluru Police Commissioner

"The wireless conference saves time or I should have been making 20 calls to 20 inspectors. It helps me give clear instructions in one go.

Reddy said, "The wireless conference saves time or I should have been making 20 calls to 20 inspectors. It helps me give clear instructions in one go".

The method keeps the personnel updated on happenings in other police stations, he said.

Recently, during one such wireless conference, the Konaje police informed about the arrest of Nazeer alias Nazzu and a case under NDPS (Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) Act being registered against him.

During discussions, it was found that Nazzu had eight to 10 cases registered against him in Ullal and other stations.

Sources said much preparation goes into conducting the daily wireless conference.

A hour before the start, the commissioner is briefed about developments in various cases by senior police officers.

Once every fortnight, senior officers conduct review meetings covering six to 10 topics.

The decisions at the meeting are shared in the wireless conference, with an instruction for implementing them.

"I have never come across officers disobeying the instructions," the top cop said.

A strategy against accused persons skipping court hearings and absconding for years, which was approved in the fortnightly meeting of police officers, yielded rich dividends.

Police stepped up heat on individuals who had signed as sureties to the absconding persons. Soon, absconders in two cases surrendered before the court recently.

"Issuing instructions and regular follow-ups at the wireless conference ensures effective policing does not lose direction," he said, adding that the system will continue even in his absence.

No industry will move out of state: Minister

MYSURU, DHNS: Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development M B Patil accused the Union government of luring investors away from Karnataka to BJP-ruled states and Andhra Pradesh by offering heavy incentives..

"They are luring investors with incentives and trying to divert them to BJP-ruled states like Gujarat and Maharashtra. But Karnataka has a strong ecosystem and skilled talent. No industry will move out. In fact, many are coming here to invest," Patil told reporters here.

He alleged that the Union government was responsible for Google's shift to Andhra Pradesh, calling it a "political gift" to CM Chandrababu Naidu, backed by Rs 22,000 crore in incentives. A semiconductor firm, too, changed its plan after visiting Delhi, he charged.

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CHANGE OF NAME
I, Tharun Kumar Reddy A, residing at No. 102, Ramaiah Reddy Compound, 8th Cross Road, Kateramma Temple, Kodihalli, Bengaluru North, HAL 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560 008, have changed my name to A THARUN KUMAR REDDY vide affidavit dated 28.10.2025 before notary N Thulasi, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called A THARUN KUMAR REDDY only

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Smt. GANGAMMA M W/o Kaliprasad, aged about 41 years, residing at # 116/15, Rohini Nilaya, 5th Main, New KG Layout, Vivekananda Nagar, Katriguppe, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru- 560085, I declare that I have changed my name from Gangamma M to VEENA M affidavit sworn before notary S.N. Madhu, Bengaluru on this date 29-10-2025.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, D.Sandeep Varma aged 43 years, Residing at Villa No.77, MBR Gempark, Sarjapura to Chikkthirupathi Road, Mahal Chowdadenahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore-562125 Urban District, have changed my daughter's name from Danthuluri Aamuktha to D SREE AAMUKTHA vide affidavit dated 29.10.2025 before notary Muniswamy.T, Anekal Town, Bangalore district. Henceforth she shall be called as D SREE AAMUKTHA

I RAJA RAO MALLU Residing at No-128-29, Bagaluru Road Near Government School, Kattigenahalli, Yelahanka Post, Bangalore, Karnataka- 560064, have my name is recorded in PAN Card, Bank & Aadhar Card no 831057134996 as RAJA RAO MALLU. As in my Son's and Daughter's Educations recorded as M RAJA SHEKAR REDDY. this 02 names are one and the same and belongs to my self only. I, hereby affidavit on (03-01-2025) By Advocate Ravikumar

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Mallikarjun Kharge will become CM in Nov, predicts Yatnal

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Three-time Bijapur City MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal predicted on Wednesday that the November revolution will take place and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge would become the chief minister.

Speaking to reporters here, Yatnal said, "The race for chief minister's post has begun in the Congress. Many aspirants, including Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, have started lobbying for the post. But none of the leaders who are aspiring for the post will be appointed. However, Mallikarjun Kharge will emerge as dark horse."

Basanagouda Patil Yatnal

Mallikarjun Kharge

"According to the information I have from the top Congress source Mallikarjun Kharge will replace Siddaramaiah as chief minister. Once his (Kharge) name comes up, DyCM D K Shivakumar, Satish Jarkiholi and others will stay out of the race," Yatnal said.

Yatnal, who was expelled from the BJP for six years on charges of repeated violations of party discipline, said that he would campaign for the saffron party for the upcoming Assembly elections in Goa.

'Will form JCB party'

Replying to a query on his probable return to the BJP, Yatnal said he would establish a JCB (Janata Dal (S), Congress, BJP) party if the BJP high command continued B Y Vijayendra as state unit chief..

"I will bring disgruntled leaders from all parties to the JCB fold and ensure their win," he said.

Don't strain yourselves with remarks on 'leadership tiff': DKS to partymen

Siddaramaiah face of Congress ideology, says Lad

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Wednesday asked his Congress colleagues not to "strain themselves" by engaging in discussions on the chief minister's post or the so-called 'November Revolution'.

"My request is that no one should strain themselves by discussing such things," Shivakumar told reporters in response to questions on party leaders debating change in leadership and the 'Dalit CM' demand.

Meanwhile, Shivakumar, who is also Karnataka Congress president, held a meeting on the selection of candidates for elections next year to the legislative council from west graduates', southeast graduates', northeast teachers' and Bangalore teachers' constituencies.

"In each constituency, 4-5 people have applied for the ticket. I'll finalise the names in 8-10 days. In the next round, I'll hold discussions with ministers and MLAs for their opinions," he said.

On reports that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi may visit the state in November to lay the foundation stone for the 100 Congress Bhavans, Shivakumar said the date was not final.

"He (Rahul) has sought a report on all those who have shown interest - ministers, MLAs, leaders - in setting up the Congress Bhavans. Once it is sent, he'll finalise the date," he added.

Labour Minister Santosh Lad hailed Chief Minister Siddaramaiah as the "face of the Congress' ideology" in the state and said he should not retire from politics.

"We need (Siddaramaiah's) leadership. The entire state needs his leadership. He must remain active in politics. He shouldn't retire," Lad said.

"Siddaramaiah is an integral part of our ideology. He's a popular leader. He's the face of the Congress' ideology," he added.

Shivakumar will be CM if destined: Suresh

Bangalore Milk Union Ltd (Bamul) president D K Suresh said his brother, D K Shivakumar, would become chief minister if destined.

"If it's in his fate, he'll become (chief minister). If not, he won't. Why worry about it? I've said that I want to see my brother as CM. It'll happen if it's fated," Suresh, the former Bangalore Rural MP, said.

When asked what efforts were underway to see his brother become the CM, Suresh said: "No efforts. Whatever it is, the party decides. Shivakumar is the party president and deputy CM. It's his duty to conduct himself in a way that doesn't harm the party".

Bill on internal quota for SCs likely in Belagavi legislature session

BENGALURU, DHNS

The government has decided to introduce a law to "effectively implement" internal reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) through the 6-6-5 formula as per the August 25 government order (GO).

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah chaired a meeting in this regard on Wednesday, in which Home Minister G Parameshwara, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil, Social Welfare Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge and others participated, where issues concerning internal reservation and its implementation were concerned.

The chief minister is said to have directed that no caste should face injustice while finalising the roster.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Patil said, "A law is needed to effectively implement internal reservation and provide adequate justice and representation to everyone. A draft has already been prepared."

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at Vidhana Soudha on Wednesday to discuss issues related to the implementation of internal reservation for Scheduled Castes.

According to the initial draft which *DH* has accessed, the legislation is named "The Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-Classification) Ordinance, 2025".

However, sources feel that an ordinance may not be needed, and instead the legislation will be introduced as a Bill in the upcoming winter session of the legislature in Belagavi.

The legislation mandates that internal reservation be implemented as per the 6-6-5 formula of the government.

Group A comprises 16 castes (Madiga and 15 affiliated castes), group B has 19 castes (Holeya and 18 affiliated castes) and group C comprises 63 castes (Lambani, Bhovi, Korma, Korcha and 59 'most backward' communities). Overall there are 101 SC castes in Karnataka.

The legislation also notes that the three SC castes not included in this formula (Adi Karnataka, Adi Dravida and Adi Andhra) can take reservation either under Category A or B as per the circular issued on October 8.

The legislation clarifies these classifications will only apply for state government jobs and not for central government jobs and departments.

Two more meetings

The government has scheduled a meeting on Thursday to discuss issues regarding reservation in promotions.

On Friday, CM Siddaramaiah has convened a meeting with the 59 nomadic, semi-nomadic and highly sensitive SC communities to discuss with them on their demand for a separate 1% reservation.

Earlier on Wednesday, a delegation of nomadic community leaders met Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa and placed their demands before him. A delegation is also said to have met Siddaramaiah and submitted a memorandum to him.

This is as per the assurance by senior Congress leaders that a meeting would be held after Deepawali.

The Confederation of Untouchable Nomadic SC Communities has been urging the government to grant them separate 1% reservation as suggested by the H N Nagamohan Das Commission. They have urged the government to create a separate board for them that doesn't include communities like Korma and Korcha and provide a comprehensive package.

Ready to respond to charges if given in writing: Khader

'Anyone can come to my office, give complaints'

MANGALURU, DHNS

Legislative Assembly Speaker U T Khader said that those making allegations of corruption or irregularities against him or his office can visit him at his office in Bengaluru and submit their queries in writing.

He was reacting to the charges levelled by former Speaker and MP Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri and Mangalore City North MLA Dr Y Bharath Shetty at the Mangaluru International Airport.

"Anyone with questions can come to my office and give their complaints in writing. I am ready for any discussion. The Speaker's post is a constitutional position, and I cannot keep responding to allegations made from anywhere in the state. If they submit their queries in writing, I will clarify," he said.

U T KHADER
Legislative Assembly Speaker

"I am ready for any discussion. Anyone with questions can come to my office and give their complaints in writing. The Speaker's post is a constitutional position, and I cannot keep responding to allegations made from anywhere in the state. If they submit their queries in writing, I will clarify.

Khader said he has taken note of the allegations. "There is no cure for jealousy. Development works will continue. As I hold a responsible position, I will do everything to uphold the dignity of the Speaker's post and the Legislative Assembly," he added.

Responding to Bharath Shetty's allegation that the lounge at Vidhana Soudha has been converted into a massage parlour, Khader said, "It is my duty to ensure that MLAs get all the facilities they need. I will continue to provide facilities that are good for them even in the days to come."

"If they find pleasure in making allegations against me, I am fine with that. Allegations are not new to me. I have been facing them since I became an MLA. By overcoming such allegations, I have reached this position. I am confident that the voters in my constituency know me well," he said.

On the cabinet reshuffle and rumours of him being assigned a new responsibility, he said no such proposal has come to his notice.

HC stay on govt order: Priyank blames local officers' dereliction

BENGALURU, DHNS

Panchayat Raj and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge on Wednesday blamed "dereliction" by local officials for the High Court's Dharwad bench staying the government's order requiring prior permission for the use of public places.

"The advocate general didn't have information. We didn't know that the matter was listed. There was dereliction on the part of local officials," Priyank told reporters, adding that the government will appeal against the interim stay.

Defending the impugned order, Priyank said the government had merely extended to the entire state an existing High Court order.

"We're not barring any activity. We're only saying that permission must be sought," Priyank said. "Is it okay for anybody to do anything they want in public places or government premises?"

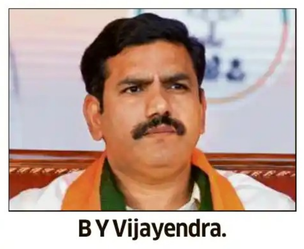
The government order was based on a Cabinet decision, prompted by Priyank's petition seeking a ban on the activities of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in public places.

Reacting to the BJP celebrating the High Court decision, Priyank said: "If this was a win for them, then they should've done 3-4 route marches in Chittapur by now. The BJP is completely misinterpreting the High Court order, which is an interim one."

Priyank also asked the BJP-RSS to apologise for the abuses he has received. "When I received an abusive call from a Maharashtra man, did anyone from the RSS or BJP condemn it? Let them apologise," he said.

Fight for CM's chair has taken a disastrous turn: BYV

CHITRADURGA, DHNS


B Y Vijayendra.

Karnataka BJP president B Y Vijayendra on Wednesday opined that the fight for the Chief Minister's chair had taken a 'disastrous' turn and expressed confidence of the issue reaching a logical conclusion by the end of November.

Interacting with journalists in Chitradurga, Vijayendra said, "Initially, Siddaramaiah was assuring everyone that he would remain the CM for the entire five-year term. However, he is now saying that he will continue in the post if the high command asks him to do so. It appears as though anything could happen."

Pointing to statements made by many Congress MLAs, who had expressed their disagreement with the CM, the Karnataka BJP president added, "Many legislators are clamouring for Deputy CM D K Shivakumar to be made the Chief Minister. Consequently, Siddaramaiah is himself not sure whether he will remain in the top post after November."

The power tussle within the ruling party in the state had crippled the administrative machinery, rued Vijayendra. He charged the government with being apathetic to the welfare of farmers and the poor.

"Even the people are murmuring about the constant infighting within the government," said the Karnataka BJP chief.

CM Siddaramaiah has no control over his Cabinet, says Bommai

GADAG, DHNS: The flurry of statements being issued by Karnataka ministers on a possible change of guard is a clear indication that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has lost control over his Cabinet, said former CM and BJP MP Basavaraj Bommai.

Basavaraj Bommai

"The Congress high command has issued clear instructions to all party members, asking them not to speak about the change in leadership. But ministers and other leaders are not staying silent, and continue to talk about the matter," he said.

Bommai further alleged that the Congress was 'squeezing' Karnataka to fund its election campaign in Bihar.

"This has happened in the past as well wherein the Congress dispatched funds from Karnataka to poll-bound states," he added.

On the possibility of a Dalit ascending the CM's chair, he said, "I would be very happy if a Dalit were to become the CM. But is the current CM doing anything? Has there been any development in the state in the past two-and-a-half years?"

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2	765 kV line bays – 2 Nos. (at Parli New)				-
3	• 765 kV line bays – 2 Nos. (at Bidar PS) • 765 kV, 240 MVAr SLR at Bidar PS – 2 Nos.	480 MVAr (SLR)			-

Note: (i) Locations for elements at row no.1 are in the state of Maharashtra and Karnataka, row no.2 are in Maharashtra and row no. 3 are in Karnataka.
(ii) For complete scope please visit **https://www.powergrid.in/subsidiaries**

2. Complete application and other documents filed before the Commission are available on the web site of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited **https://www.powergrid.in/subsidiaries** for access by any person. The application can also be inspected at the office of the Company at C/o ED (TBCB), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Saudamini, Plot No.2, Sector -29, Gurgaon 122001 with Sh. Binod Kumar, Project Incharge, SR WR Power Transmission Limited or Office of the Commission in accordance with the procedure specified by the Commission.

3. Objections or suggestions, if any, be filed before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 7th Floor, Tower B, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi- 110029, with a copy of the objection(s)/suggestion(s) to the applicant or its authorized agent, within 15 days of the publication of the notice in the newspaper.

Place: New Delhi
Date: 30.10.2025

Sh. Binod Kumar
Project Incharge,
SR WR Power Transmission Limited

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, KOPPAL. THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DIVISION, KOPPAL

NO.RWS/Dn/KPL/SMB/2025-26/815 **Date:29.10.2025**

KPPP NOTIFICATION Double Cover System

On Behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply & sanitation Division, Koppal Invites e-Tender for SBMG Work The eligible bidders are requested to submit the Bid in Double Cover System through kppp portol mode through portol http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

General Information: 1) Contractor should submit the Tender Bid Documents through Online Only. 2) All Documents Should be Scanned and Upload during the period of Applying Tender through Online Only. 3) EMD Amount Should be Submitted Through Online Only 4) Two Cover Tender Called.

If any More Information Contractor should Contact this office or wide email id:eerwsskpl@gmail.com in Office Hours and Tenders will be Download from **30/10/2025** Tender Processing Fee: **As Per KPPP Portol** Tender Downloading Date: **30/10/2025** Time: 10:00 AM to **14/11/2025** 16:00 Hours Tender receiving Date and Time: **30/10/2025** Time: 10:00 AM to **14/11/2025** 16:00 Hours Technical Bid Opening Date and Time: **15/11/2025** Date:16:30 Hours Financial Bid Opening after approval of the technical bid from the Competent Authority **18/11/2025** Time: 11:00 AM to or After Obtaining the Technical Bid Approval from the Competent Authority

The Contractors should produce the Original Documents within 8 days from the open of the tender. If failed such Contractor candidature will not be considered.

DIPR/Koppal/419/KSMCA/2025-26

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
R.D.W & S .Division, Koppal

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders from eligible contractors for the following works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Kaveri Bhavan K.G.Road, Bengaluru - 560 009

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (in Rs.)	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	South-1	BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/2157/2025-26, Date: 23.10.2025	Rs.56,33,039/- / Rs.1,12,700/-	18.11.2025 upto 4:00 PM	20.11.2025 after 4:00 PM
2		BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/2158/2025-26, Date: 23.10.2025	Rs.79,10,663/- / Rs.1,58,300/-	18.11.2025 upto 4:00 PM	20.11.2025 after 4:00 PM
3		BWSSB/EES-1/TO/AE/2159/2025-26, Date: 23.10.2025	Rs.39,33,547/- / Rs.78,700/-	18.11.2025 upto 4:00 PM	20.11.2025 after 4:00 PM
4		BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/2160/2025-26, Date: 23.10.2025	Rs.59,26,531/- / Rs.1,18,600/-	18.11.2025 upto 4:00 PM	20.11.2025 after 4:00 PM
5		BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/2161/2025-26, Date: 23.10.2025	Rs.72,66,865/- / Rs.1,45,400/-	18.11.2025 upto 4:00 PM	20.11.2025 after 4:00 PM
6		BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/2162/2025-26, Date: 23.10.2025	Rs.83,91,172/- / Rs.1,67,900/-	18.11.2025 upto 4:00 PM	20.11.2025 after 4:00 PM
7		BWSSB/EES-1/AE/TO/2163/2025-26, Date: 23.10.2025	Rs.78,87,223/- / Rs.1,57,800/-	18.11.2025 upto 4:00 PM	20.11.2025 after 4:00 PM

Sd/- **Executive Engineer (South-1)**

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during the working hours. DIPR/CP/3484/SA/2025-26

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
PUBLIC NOTICE

No: GBA/HO/PR/17/2025-26 Date:29.10.2025

This notice is a final warning to all owners and operators of unauthorized Paying Guest (PG) accommodations within the BECC jurisdiction. It has come to the notice of the BECC that a large number of PGs are operating without the mandatory trade license and in violation of established norms. These violations include, but are not limited to:

- **Operating in residential zones without permission**
- **Failure to provide basic safety and hygienic facilities**
- **Non-compliance with fire safety regulations**
- **Failure to install CCTV cameras as mandated**

Many illegal PGs lack essential safety measures, leading to potential risks for public health.

The BANGALORE EAST CITY CORPORATION (BECC) is conducting a city-wide enforcement drive to shut down such unauthorized PG accommodations.

All citizens and residents of BECC are hereby informed that PG owners operating without a valid trade license are liable for penalties and will face closure. PG owners who do not immediately comply with greater Bengaluru Governance Act 2024 guidelines and obtain the necessary licenses will face strict legal action, penalties, and sealing of their premises under the Bengaluru Governance **Act 2024, w.e.f 7 days of this Public Notice.**

Sd/- Commissioner,
BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION

Congress slams govt for citing Manusmriti in draft labour policy

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Congress on Wednesday criticised the Modi government over a recently published draft labour policy that referred to the Manusmriti as a text forming the basis of labour governance in the country, accusing it of returning to the controversial scripture "in keeping with the RSS's most cherished traditions".

Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh said the Modi government's draft Shram Shakti Niti 2025, released earlier this month for public feedback, "explicitly" claims that the Manusmriti embeds "the moral basis of labour governance within India's civilisational fabric, centuries before the rise of modern labour law".

"This return to the principles of the Manusmriti is in keeping with the RSS's most cherished traditions. After all, it had attacked the Constitution of India soon after it was adopted — on the grounds that it did not derive inspiration from the ideals and values of Manu as embodied in the Manusmriti," Ramesh posted on 'X'.

"In the Indic worldview, work is not merely a means of livelihood but a contribution to the broader order of dharma (righteous duty). This perspective recognises every worker — whether an artisan, farmer, teacher, or industrial labourer — as an essential participant in the cycle of social creation," the draft stated.

"Ancient texts such as the Manusmriti, Yajnavalkyasmriti, Naradasmriti, Sukraniti and Arthashastra articulated this ethos through the concept of rajadharma, emphasising the sovereign's duty to ensure justice, fair wages, and the protection of workers from exploitation. These early formulations embedded the moral basis of labour governance within India's civilisational fabric, centuries before the rise of modern labour law," it added.

HPCL-Mittal Energy halts Russian oil purchases

Says vessels were not under international sanctions

NEW DELHI, PTI

HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd (HMEL) has suspended the purchases of Russian crude oil, the company said on Tuesday, clarifying that the vessels, which delivered previous consignments, were not under the international sanctions.

The private refiner, a joint venture between state-run Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) and steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittal's Mittal Energy Investments, said it will continue to review its position and comply with government policy and applicable laws.

HMEL, which operates a 9 million tonnes a year oil refinery at Bhatinda in Punjab, is the first Indian firm to officially announce suspension of purchase of Russian crude after the US sanctioned two of Moscow's biggest oil firms.

Commenting on a Financial Times report, which stated that Indian refiner had received at least four crude shipments this year worth almost USD 280 million on sanctioned vessels, HMEL said it bought Russian oil on a delivered basis - meaning the supplier made shipping arrangements.

The company said it was not aware of the specific vessels that transported the cargo from Murmansk in Russia's far northwest, through the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, but clarified that the ships, which eventually delivered the oil at Indian ports, were not under sanctions.

"Notwithstanding this, HMEL had already taken the decision to suspend further purchases of Russian crude upon recent announcements of new restrictions on imports of crude oil from Russia by the United States, European Union and United Kingdom, pending receipt of any outstanding orders," the company said in a statement.

The US last week imposed sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil in a bid to pressure Moscow into ending its war in Ukraine.

Russia currently supplies nearly a third of India's crude imports, averaging around 1.7 million barrels per day (mbd) in 2025, of which approximately 1.2 mbd came directly from Rosneft and Lukoil.

Most of these volumes were bought by private refiners, Reliance Industries Ltd and Nayara Energy, with smaller allocations to state-owned refiners, including HMEL.

Financial Times said the oil was transported on the US-blacklisted vessels between July and September from the Arctic port of Murmansk to as far as the Gulf of Oman.

The oil was transferred on high seas to different vessels.

"The final leg of the journey into India was undertaken on the Samadha, a tanker that is not on the US sanctions lists, though it was blacklisted by the EU," it said, citing an analysis of satellite imagery, shipping data and customs records.

HMEL said the ship Samadha, which delivered the crude to the port in India, was not under OFAC sanctions at the time of delivery.

The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the US Department of the Treasury administers and enforces economic and trade sanctions.

"HMEL always acts in full compliance with government policy and regulations," the company statement said.

Purchase of Russian oil, per se, has not been sanctioned, and it's only the Russian entities that have been blacklisted.

This means that Russian crude, which is processed in refineries to make fuels like petrol and diesel, offered by any non-sanctioned entity could be considered.

This understanding was also reflected by IOC Director (Finance) Anuj Jain in a post-earnings analyst call on Tuesday.

"We are absolutely not going to discontinue (buying Russian crude) as long as we are complying with the sanctions. Russian crude is not sanctioned. It is the entities and the shipping lines which have got sanctions," he had said.

"If somebody comes to me with a non-sanctioned entity, and the (price) cap is being complied with, and the shipping is okay, then I will continue to buy it."

J&K seeks NIA nod to resume Pahalgam cable car project

The project could not start due to Pahalgam terror attack

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

The Jammu and Kashmir government has sought clearance from the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to restart work on the proposed cable car project at Baisaran in Pahalgam, the scenic meadow that witnessed a deadly terror attack on April 22, leaving 26 people, mostly tourists, dead.

Responding to a question in the Assembly, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds the tourism portfolio, said the project had already been allotted to a private company but could not take off due to security concerns following the Pahalgam attack. "Work was awarded, but in view of the post-Pahalgam scenario, the project remains on hold," he said.

The Rs 100–120 crore project, conceived by the Jammu and Kashmir Cable Car Corporation (JKCCC), envisages a 1.4-km-long ropeway linking Yatri Niwas in Pahalgam to the Baisaran meadow, a major tourist attraction often referred to as 'Mini Switzerland'.

The required 9.13 hectares of land belongs to the Forest Department, the CM informed.

After tenders were floated for consultancy and preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR), the work was awarded to Ronmas India Pvt Ltd through a competitive bidding process. An agreement was subsequently signed between the JKCCC and the firm.

However, the company has been unable to begin field operations because of restrictions in the area since the terror strike. The firm has requested permission to carry out topographical and geotechnical surveys at the site, but local authorities have directed that the matter be referred to the NIA, which is investigating the April 22 attack.

"The issue has been taken up with the deputy commissioner, Anantnag, who has advised that NIA's nod is essential before work can proceed," the CM said.

The Tourism Department has now formally approached the NIA for security clearance to allow the consultant to start groundwork.

Once approval is received, officials said, the project is expected to be completed within 18 months. If approved, the Baisaran cable car will be the third such project in J&K, after the Gulmarg and Patnitop ropeways, and is expected to significantly boost tourism in the region once operational.

Road block

- The project could not start owing to security concerns after Pahalgam attack
- It envisages a 1.4-km-long ropeway linking Yatri Niwas in Pahalgam to the Baisaran meadow
- It was allotted to a private firm but field work couldn't begin
- Once approved it will be completed within 18 months

OMAR ABDULLAH
Chief Minister

"The issue has been taken up with the deputy commissioner, Anantnag, who has advised that NIA's nod is essential before work can proceed.

PRETTY, PRIZED & PETITE

Abhinav Tiwari poses with his 16-inch-tall calf, which he brought from Jaipur's Bagru along with other cows of different breeds to the Pushkar fair in Ajmer district, Rajasthan on Wednesday. The calf is believed to be among the smallest at the Pushkar fair. PTI PHOTO

Kerala student quits after fee hike; narrates plight in video

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

A third-year student from the College of Agriculture, Vellayani, in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram has dropped out after being unable to manage the steep fee hike.

The student, identified as Arjun, hails from Thamarasserry on a suburb of Kozhikode. He posted a video on social media narrating his plight after collecting his transfer certificate from the college.

Arjun, who joined the degree course in the merit seat this year, said the fee per semester was around Rs 15,000 while he was seeking admission. Now, it has been increased to Rs 50,000, which his family could not afford.

"There are many students like me from weak financial backgrounds who cannot afford this exorbitant fee. Hence, the university authorities should consider a reduction in the fees," he urged in the post that has since gone viral.

Several student outfits have staged a protest against the fee hike.

The College of Agriculture said in a statement that they used to ensure that no students would have to discontinue education owing to financial crunches.

Various scholarships and financial assistance initiatives are being offered to students from financially weak backgrounds.

Arjun was also eligible for a scholarship and hence there was no reason for him to discontinue studies owing to financial reasons, said the statement.

Incidentally, the plight of a student over the high fee at a government college in Kerala is coming out at a time when the state is witnessing a row over the government's decision to implement PM SHRI in the state.

CPI is strongly opposing PM SHRI, claiming it could lead to commercialisation of the education sector.

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly Owned State Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP only)

The Chief Engineer Ele., Bangalore Rural Area Zone, BESCOM, Bengaluru invites tender for the following through KPP portal in two cover system.

Enq. No. & Date: CEE/BRAZ/SEE(O)/ AEE-1/Enq No. ET 43 / 2025-26/ dated 28-10-2025. **Particulars:** Providing **03 Nos. of Telephone Operators and 12 Nos. of Gangmen for Shift to 24x7 Service Station to operate in the jurisdiction Malur sub division (Industrial Area)** of KGF Division BESCOM for a period of **One Year** through an agency.

Approx Amount put to tender: **Rs.35,36,073/-.** Contract period: **One year. a)** Bid document available on e-portal: **30-10-2025 @ 12:00 hrs onwards, IST. b)** Pre bid meeting: **05-11-2025 @ 11:00 hrs, IST. c)** Last date for submission of queries: **06-11-2025 upto 17:00 hrs, IST. d)** Last date for submission of bid documents: **14-11-2025 upto 17:00 hrs, IST. e)** Date and time of opening technical bid: **15-11-2025 @ 17.05 hrs, IST. f)** EMD shall be paid: **Rs. 70,721/-.**

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through KPP portal from the website **kpppusers@karnataka.gov.in.** on or after **30-10-2025.** Aspiring bidders need to register on e-procurement portal.

All the payments such as tender processing fee, EMD etc. shall be made through e-payment mode. Further any clarification contact helpdesk **080-8046010000, 080-806894877 or E-mail: support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Electy,
BRAZ, BESCOM, No.1-4, 5th Floor, Rajajinagar IT Park, Bangalore-10.

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE/ BGKT/OTZ/SEE (O)/AEE-3/2025-26/11549-53 Date: 27.10.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites Tender for the following services required for Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Bagalkote.

(1) Tender Enquiry No.: KPTCL/CEE/BGKT/OTZ/2025-26/ SERVICE-VEHICLES/PACKAGE-1 **Tender No. KPTCL/2025-26/ SE2282/CALL-2.** For providing the service of hiring the Tempo Traveler vehicles with Driver for daily maintenance & breakdown works by carrying both men and materials as & when required at TLM sections in Operations Division, Bagalkote under the jurisdiction of Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Bagalkote. **Quantity :** 3 Nos.

(2) Tender Enquiry No.: KPTCL/CEE/BGKT/OTZ/2025-26/ SERVICE-VEHICLES/PACKAGE-2 **Tender No. KPTCL/2025-26/ SE2289/CALL-2.** For providing the service of hiring the Tempo Traveler vehicles with Driver for daily maintenance & breakdown works by carrying both men and materials as & when required at TLM sections in Operations Division, Sirsi under the jurisdiction of Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Bagalkote. **Quantity :** 4 Nos.

The tender will be received through "KPPP e- Portal" only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after Date. **30.10.2025, 04.00 pm onwards** and last date for receipt of tender is Date.**15.11.2025 up to 05.30 pm.** Further details can be had from the office of the under signed during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Near Sector No.45, Navanagar, Bagalkote-587103.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(BELLARY THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through KPP Portal only)

KPCL invites bids for the e-Auction of following scrap materials 'as is where is basis' available at BTPS. The tender details can be downloaded from KPPP portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in 1) KPCL/2025-26/AUCTION108** Sale of Released/ Scrap Aluminium Cables & Wires. **2) KPCL/2025-26/AUCTION109** Sale of Released/Scrap Bull ring Segments. **3) KPCL/2025-26/AUCTION110** Sale of Released/Scrap Grinding Roller. **4) KPCL/ 2025-26/AUCTION111** Sale of Released/ Scrap Copper Cables & Wires. **5) KPCL/ 2025-26/AUCTION112** Sale of Released/ Scrap Feeder Belts & Tyres. **6) KPCL/ 2025-26/AUCTION113** Sale of Released/Scrap Conveyor Belt. **7) KPCL/2025-26/ AUCTION114** Sale of Released/Scrap Plastic Jerry Cans (35-50KG capacity).**8) KPCL/2025-26/AUCTION115** Sale of Released/Scrap APH Baskets. **9) KPCL/ 2025-26/AUCTION116** Sale of Released/Scrap Empty MS Barrels (210 Capacity). **10) KPCL/2025-26/AUCTION117** Sale of Released/Scrap Used oil with MS Barrel (210 Ltrs Capacity). **11) KPCL/2025-26/AUCTION118** Sale of Released/Scrap MS SCRAP like cut pieces etc. Last date for receipt of tenders: **06.11.2025.** Any extension of last date of bid submission will be intimated in e-portal. Further details can be obtained from **Executive Engineer (STORE)**, BTPS, KPCL, Kudathini-583152. Bellary Dist. Mobile: 9480830601. E-mail: eestorebtps@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHANNARAYAPATNA
Email:itstaff_ulb_channarayapatna@yahoo.co.in,Phone: 08176-255411
No. TMC/CRP/EE Tender/ 01/2025-26 Date : 27-10-2025

: E-Procurement Tender :

The Chief Officer, TMC, Channarayapatna invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the development of works detailed in the below. The tenderers may submit the tenders as below. Name of Work: Providing manpower services of Operator, Electrician/Mechanic, Helper/Fitter, Watchman at jackwell, pipeline, leakage, service reservoir and Water Treatment plant of TMC, Channarayapatna Indent No:- DMA/2025-26/ SE6246 Eprocurement portal Address (Visit:https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) Channarayapatna Website Address www.channarayapatnatown.mrc.gov.in. 1] Last date and time for receipt of tenders through E-portal : From 28-10-2025 to 11-11-2025, Time:17.30 P.M 2] Time and date of opening of Technical bid : date: 13-11-2025, time 11.00 A.M Estimate Cost-73.20 L EMD Amount - 1.41 L

Sd/-Sri Mohan C N
President TMC, CHANNARAYAPATNA

Sd/-Sri Yathishkumar R K.M.A.S
CHIEF OFFICER TMC, CHANNARAYAPATNA

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಪಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/717/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ
Office of the Registrar (Evaluation), Jnana Jyothi Central College Campus, Dr. B.R Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560001. E-mail: registrarevlubeu@gmail.com , regev@bcu.ac.in, Ph.No.22295559/29572003,
Tender No: BCU/2024-25/IND0020 Date: 28.10.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement portal only)

Name of the work	Providing and Supply of Sports Kits for the year 2025-26 to the Physical Education Department, Central College Campus, Bengaluru City University, Bengaluru
EMD amount	Rs. 1,50,000/-
Last date for queries	03.11.2025 Up to 11.00hrs.
Pre Bid meeting date and place	03.11.2025 at 11.30hrs Registrar's Office, Central College Campus, Bengaluru City University, Bengaluru
Last date for submission of Tender	12.11.2025 Up to 16.00hrs.
Last date for submission of Sample	12.11.2025 Up to 16.30hrs.
Opening of the Technical Bid	13.11.2025 at 16.30hrs.

Note: Payment of Tender processing fee and EMD amount as per E-procurement Portal.

DIPR/CP/3495/SSC/2025-26 Sd/- Registrar

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ – ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ),
ಸರ್ ಸಿದ್ದಪ್ಪ ಕಂಬಳಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ – 580 023.
ದೂ. : 0836–2252204, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ : garden.hdmc@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಎಚ್.ಡಿ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ./2505/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್/2025–26
ದಿನಾಂಕ : 29–10–2025

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ – ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸನ್ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಆದೇಶ 1999 – 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆ್ಯಕ್ಟ್ 2000 ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆ್ಯಕ್ಟ್ 2000 ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಪಿ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ.ಡಿ. ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ.

1) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT50923, ರೂ. 42.45 ಲಕ್ಷ, (12 ತಿಂಗಳು), 2) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 50924, ರೂ. 45.80 ಲಕ್ಷ, (12 ತಿಂಗಳು), 3) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : DMA/2025-26/ OW/WORK_INDENT50925, ರೂ. 44.40 ಲಕ್ಷ, (12 ತಿಂಗಳು), 4) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT50926, ರೂ. 48.00 ಲಕ್ಷ, (12 ತಿಂಗಳು).

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 13–11–2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, 2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 14–11–2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆ ನಂತರ.

ಈ ಮೇಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಹೆಸರು, ಇ.ಎಮ್.ಡಿ. ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು http:/www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 30–10–2025 ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಸದರಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ),
ಹು – ಧಾ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ.

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ ಧಾರವಾಡ/800/ಮಣಿಹಾಲ್/2025–26

Government of India
Ministry of Communication
Department of Telecommunications
Office of The Controller Of Communication Accounts- Karnataka Circle https://dot.gov.in/cca/karnataka

ನಿವೃತ್ತಿ ವೇತನದಾರರ ಪಿಂಚಣಿ ಅದಾಲತ್ ನಡೆಸುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಬಿ.ಎಸ್.ಎನ್.ಎಲ್/ ಟೆಲಿಕಾಂ ಪಿಂಚಣಿದಾರರ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ)

42ನೇ ಪಿಂಚಣಿ ಅದಾಲತ್ ಅನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಲಯದ ದೂರಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಥವಾ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್.ಎನ್.ಎಲ್ ನಿಂದ ನಿವೃತ್ತಿಯಾದವರಿಗೆ ನವೆಂಬರ್–2025ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಾಪ್ರಭಂಧಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಸಂಚಾರ ಸದನ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಸಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಂಬಂಧ ಪಟ್ಟಂತಹ ನಿವೃತ್ತಿದಾರರು/ ಕುಟುಂಬ ಪಿಂಚಣಿದಾರರು ತಮ್ಮ ಅಹವಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮ ppo ವಿವರಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಅಂಚೆ ಅಥವಾ ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ (jtcca1.ka-dot@gov.in) ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.11.2025ರ ಒಳಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಹಾಗೂ ಉತ್ತರಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿತ ಅಥವಾ ನೀತಿ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿಷಯಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಪಿಂಚಣಿ ಅದಾಲತ್‌ನ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯವನ್ನು ಅಹವಾಲುದಾರರಿಗೆ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಜಂಟಿ ದೂರ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಕರು

NOTICE OF HOLDING PENSION ADALAT
ATTENTION-TELECOM/BSNL PENSIONERS

FORTY SECOND (42ND) PENSION ADALAT FOR TELECOM / BSNL PENSIONERS is proposed to be held during Nov-2025 at O/o GMTD, Sanchar Sadan, Hubli.

Pensioners/Family Pensioners who retired from Department of Telecom/BSNL Karnataka Circle, having grievances regarding their pension matter may submit their representations on or before 16.11.2025 by Post/E-mail (jtcca1.ka-dot@gov.in) with full PPO details: Cases involving legal / succession issues and policy matters will not be entertained.

Time of the Adalat will be intimated directly to each Applicant in due course.

Joint . Controller of Communications Accounts

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited
No.148, Embassy Square, Ground Floor, Infantry Road, Bangalore - 560001, CIN No: U41000KA2016SGC097260
Ph: 080-22256688/22289966 Fax: 080-22264477
Email: mail@vjnl.in, Website: www.vjnl.in
Office of the Executive Engineer, Yettinahole Project Division No.4, Madhugiri, Tumkur Dist-572132
Ph: 08137-282112 Email-eeyetmadhugiri4@gmail.com

Sl No:EE/VJNL/YHP/Div-No.4/Madhugiri/NIT-07/2025-26/ Date: 23.10.2025

Tender Notification: (Through E-procurement system)

On Behalf of Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigama Limited, Bangalore the Executive Engineer, VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division No.4, Madhugiri, Karnataka invites two tender document system from **eligible PWD contractor's for the 4701 Head of Account works in Madhugiri constituency for a total 02 works** for an amount **Rs. 62.53 Lakhs** to **148.41 Lakhs** on **"Percentage basis"** through e-Procurement portal. The contractor's can download and submit the completed bid documents through e-procurement website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **28.10.2025 to 11.11.2025 up to 5.30 PM, tenders shall be submitted through E-proc.** only. Details for EMD amount, Tender Processing fee, Tender Clarifications, Qualification of bidders, Tender Conditions etc., may be obtained through e-procurement.

The queries if any may be clarified from this office up to **07.10.2025 3.00 PM.** The bid will be opened on **13.10.2025, 11.00 AM** in office of the Executive Engineer, VJNL, YHP Division No.04, Madhugiri The undersigned reserves all rights to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/TUM/RO-148/25-26/Oysters VJNL, YHP, Division No.4, Madhugiri

MANDYA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, MANDYA-571 401
(Autonomous Medical Institution, Government of Katakana)
(Phone: 08232-231003, Fax: 08232-231001
E-mail: mimsmandya@gmail.com) Website: www.mimsmandya.org

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement only)

MIMS, Mandya, invited For Supply Of SCP-STP Books Items From The Publishers/Authorized Distributors / Suppliers To The Mims Institution In two Covers System as Per KTPP Act 1999 and Rules-2000.

Sl. No : 01. Tender Notification No : No:MIMS/SCP-TSP/ Books/e-t/8/2025-26. Tender Particulars : Tender for Providing SCP-STP Books. Approximate Cost (Rs. Lakh) : 94.00 Lakhs. EMD (Rs.) : 2%

Submission of e-Tender by paying Non Refundable fees Further details from website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in More details may be obtained from the MIMS Office during working hours. (Except General Holiday's).

Sd/-Chief Administrative Officer,
Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences, Mandya
ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿ&ಎ/520/2025–26

COUNTER

"The day the Bihar poll results will be out happens to be the birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. He may not be one of our ideologues, may not belong to our party, but he was the first PM of our nation. I do respect him. If people vote the NDA to power by a two-thirds majority on November 14, this will be a true tribute to Pt Nehru on his birthday.

Rajnath Singh
BJP leader

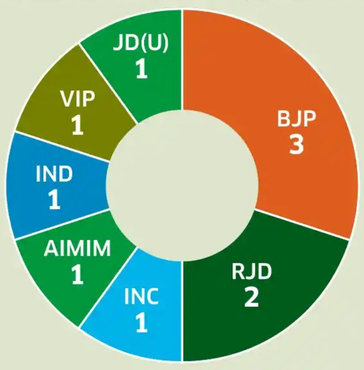
V/S

I will ask the people of the state, especially the extremely backward classes, to give up the illusion that the government is run by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. It is a government run through remote control, by the BJP, which does not care for Bihar"

Rahul Gandhi
Congress leader

HIGH TURNOUT, MIXED RESULTS

In the **10 constituencies that had a voter turnout over 65%,** the NDA secured half of the seats, indicating a competitive environment in high-engagement areas.



Note: Based on 2020 Bihar Assembly general election results only; excludes data from subsequent bypolls. **Source :** ECI

Poll diary

PM Modi to address rallies in Muzaffarpur, Chhapra today

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he will address two rallies in poll-bound Bihar on Thursday and exuded confidence that the voters will ensure a grand victory of the BJP-NDA. "My family members in Bihar are themselves contesting in the elections to ensure a huge victory for BJP-NDA," Modi said in a post on X. "In this atmosphere of enthusiasm, I will have the privilege to interact with the public at around 11 am tomorrow in Muzaffarpur and at 12.45 pm in Chhapra," he said.

MLA among 10 leaders expelled by RJD

The RJD on Wednesday expelled 10 of its leaders, including an MLA who is contesting the assembly elections against the party's official candidate after being denied a nomination. State RJD president Mangani Lal Mandal said in a statement that Fateh Bahadur Singh, the MLA from Dehri, and nine others have been expelled for "anti-party activities". The development comes two days after the expulsion of 27 leaders from the party.

HAM candidate, supporters attacked in Gayaji

Hindustani Awam Morcha leader Anil Kumr, who is seeking re-election from the Tekari Assembly constituency, and his supporters were attacked allegedly by his opponents in Bihar's Gayaji district on Wednesday. According to police, Sahni and his followers are out of danger. The MLA said that the incident took place when he had gone for campaigning in Dighaura village.

CONSTITUENCY WATCH

CHHAPRA (SARAN DISTRICT)

CHHOTTI KUMARI
BJP
2020: Did not contest

KHESARI LAL YADAV
RJD
2020: Did not contest

Hopes fade as Chanpatia's startup zone stalls

From 'Navpravartan' to near-stagnation, this Bihar model tells a different story five years after its launch

FROM THE GROUND

ASHISH PANDEY
CHANPATIA (BIHAR) DHNS

When the Covid-19 lockdown brought India to a standstill in 2020, thousands of migrant workers from Bihar were forced to return home — jobless, anxious and uncertain about their future. The country witnessed heartbreaking scenes of daily wage earners and labourers walking thousands of kilometres in desperate attempts to reach the place they called home, often without access to any mode of transport.

For a state like Bihar, where migration to cities like Surat, Ludhiana and Delhi has long been a way of life, the sudden reverse flow of workers posed an unprecedented challenge of ensuring livelihoods for those who had returned.

During that period, an idea took root in Bihar, one that sparked hope across the state. In December 2020, the 'Navpravartan Startup Zone' was launched in the small town of Chanpatia in northwestern Bihar. The concept was bold: transform returning migrants into entrepreneurs. What began as a crisis response soon evolved into a celebrated model of local innovation — the 'Chanpatia model' that promised to marry self-reliance with rural industrialisation.

Official records paint a picture of optimism. Migrants with industry experience were encouraged to set up production units. A 20-acre industrial zone was developed, warehouses were converted into plug-and-play manufacturing spaces, and modern machinery was imported.

That's how the project is described on its official website. But five years on, a *DH* reality check tells a different story.

Idrish Ansari, proprietor of Everlike Sports India, says the journey began with promise but soon faltered. "The administration helped set up the facility, but the support vanished. Unit heads now run from pillar to post for basic needs."

A key hurdle is land lease renewal — most units were given three-year leases, but few were extended. Without valid leases, banks refuse loans. The land, owned by the agriculture department, hasn't approved fresh leases.

At its peak, the startup zone housed 57 units, ran over 400 machines, and sold goods worth Rs 15 crore across India and abroad. From trousers and leggings to sanitary pads and masks, it was hailed as a model of 'Aapda mein Avsar' (opportunity amid adversity).

Today, the once-bustling sheds are quiet. Traders say fewer than ten units are active, despite official claims. Shailesh Rao of Siya Sundar has advanced machinery but no orders; his workforce has shrunk from 35 to just five.

Entrepreneurs who once hailed the project now voice frustration over vanishing government support, red tape and absence of market linkages. Rao says the district administration never helped connect units to buyers; whatever sales happened were through personal outreach.

DH reached out to local MP Sanjay Jaiswal, who also serves as the BJP's chief whip in the 18th Lok Sabha. Responding to concerns, he said, "The land was allotted to entrepreneurs as a temporary arrangement during the inactive phase of 2020-21. Now, the government is providing permanent space for all enterprises operating there at a nearby location. They should shift there."

As Bihar enters the election season, Chanpatia's story resonates beyond. It poses a deeper question for policymakers: can a state become truly self-reliant on hope alone, or must it build systems that sustain that hope long after the spotlight fades?

Units that have been closed due to a lack of funds or customers. DH PHOTO

A PROMISE PAUSED

- In Dec 2020, Bihar launched a startup zone in Chanpatia
- The pandemic idea was to turn returning migrants into entrepreneurs
- A 20-acre industrial zone was set up with plug-and-play units
- At its peak: 57 units, Rs 15 cr in sales across India & abroad
- Products ranged from trousers and leggings to sanitary pads and masks
- Five yrs on, fewer than 10 units remain active, say traders

Scan to watch video story

Litmus test for Tejashwi's 'solo show' in I.N.D.I.A

It is to be seen if bid to make elections a personality contest over projecting allies' unity pays off

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Tejashwi Yadav may be the obvious choice to be I.N.D.I.A bloc's chief ministerial face for Bihar, but there are questions about the strategy to turn the Assembly elections into a personality contest with the sole focus on the RJD scion, against the projection of unity among allies.

With no major realignment of caste or communities against the backdrop of elections, it is to be seen whether a personalised projection of a leader, whose party and family face allegations of 'jungle raj', yields dividends, or there should be a strategy recalibration to espouse collective leadership.

The road to announcing Tejashwi as CM candidate was not a smooth one despite its predictability, as the Congress dragged its feet until the last minute, and VIP chief Mukesh Sahani raised the bargaining chip seeking an assurance of him being named a Deputy CM face.

A banner at the dais of the first joint appearance of alliance leaders on October 23 at a press conference, when the CM face was unveiled, had only the picture of Tejashwi omitting other I.N.D.I.A leaders.

The joint manifesto, released on October 28, also bore Tejashwi's name and photo — 'Bihar ka Tejashwi Pran' (Tejashwi's Resolve) — unlike the past practice.

The 32-page manifesto also prominently displayed the RJD leader's photo while dwarfing the images of others, including top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. In an apparent attempt to break free from his father's shadow, Lalu Prasad's image on the booklet was also 'stamp-size'.

On both occasions, no top Congress leader was present, though Rahul and Tejashwi were together at campaign rallies on Wednesday. At the rallies too, Tejashwi referred to him in the third person, "Had Tejashwi brought any trouble to people? Will you give a chance to Tejashwi?"

RJD strategists appear to have gathered confidence in making it a Tejashwi battle from the 2020 results, when RJD came close to forming a government after a campaign he led and the image he developed as Deputy CM before that.

His party would also like to project him as a youthful and futuristic face, emerging as the undisputed leader of the anti-BJP front, against an ageing rival Nitish Kumar, as well as it believes that there is nothing to be scared of the allegations of 'jungle raj'.

Not all in the Opposition camp are enthusiastic about his 'solo show', amid resentment in the alliance about RJD roughshodding the seat-sharing negotiations and not taking the initiative to minimise friendly fights.

It remains to be seen whether Bihari voters will trust an untested player with political baggage over an experienced leader like Nitish.

FACE IN THE CROWD

People attend a public meeting addressed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Bihar. PTI

Lalu wants to make his son CM, Sonia her son PM: Shah

DARBHANGA/SAMASTIPUR/ BEGUSARAI (BIHAR), PTI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday attacked the I.N.D.I.A bloc, alleging that RJD supremo Lalu Prasad wants to make his son Tejashwi the chief minister of Bihar and Congress leader Sonia Gandhi her son Rahul the PM, while asserting that "both posts were not vacant".

Addressing a public rally in Darbhanga, Shah also questioned whether the members of radical outfit Popular Front of India (PFI), who were arrested after the Centre banned the organisation, would remain behind bars if the Congress-RJD combine came to power in Bihar.

"The BJP has given tickets to many youngsters for the Bihar assembly polls, but the RJD and Congress have not, as Lalu ji wants to make his son Tejashwi the chief minister and Sonia ji wants her son Rahul to be the PM... but I want to let them know that both posts are not vacant," he said.

Shah termed the Mahagathbandhan as 'thug bandhan', alleging that Lalu Prasad is involved in fodder, bitumen and land-for-jobs scams, while Congress was involved in corruption cases worth Rs 12 lakh crore.

The home minister asserted that it was the NDA government that banned PFI.

"PFI operatives were active in Patna's Phulwari Sharif. Searches were conducted across the country and members of the organisation were put behind bars. Do you think that the PFI members will remain in prison if the RJD-Congress combine comes to power in Bihar?" he questioned.

Addressing a rally in Begusarai district, Shah attacked the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, saying that the latter came to Bihar a few months ago and launched 'save infiltrators yatra', while referring to Voter Adhikar Yatra.

BIHAR VOTES

"Rahul Gandhi and Lalu Prasad want to ensure that names of infiltrators remain in voter list... Tejashwi and Rahul want to bring back 'jungle raj' in Bihar," he alleged.

"The NDA in Bihar has the leadership of Nitish ji, Chirag Paswan's youthful enthusiasm, Jitan Ram Manjhi's lifelong experience and of course the support of Upendra Kushwaha ji," he added.

Congress hits out at Modi over Trump's India-Pak claim

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Congress on Wednesday targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi after Donald Trump repeated his claim that he stopped the conflict between India and Pakistan using trade.

The party urged Modi to "find the courage to respond" to the US President, saying the "self-styled but now thoroughly shrunken and deeply exposed 56-inch chest is still quiet".

"Trump is insulting Modi in country after country. The latest is South Korea. (1) He repeated that he used trade to frighten Modi into stopping Operation Sindoor. (2) He said seven planes were shot down. Don't be scared, Modi-ji. Find the courage to respond," Leader of Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, posted on X.

Sharing video clips of Trump's remarks in Japan and later in South Korea, where he reiterated his claim that he stopped the India-Pakistan military conflict using trade, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said the American President has made similar references in the US, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the UK. "He has said it mid-flight and on land. Now President Trump has said it again while addressing business leaders in Japan last (Tuesday) evening. No wonder his good friend in New Delhi does not want to hug him any more."

In another post following Trump's remarks in South Korea, Ramesh wrote: "This is the 56th time President Trump has spoken about the abrupt halt to Operation Sindoor. But the self-styled but now thoroughly shrunken and deeply exposed 56-inch chest is still quiet."

Maya eyes Muslim votes for party's revival in UP

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

After the impressive recent public meeting in Lucknow billed as a show of strength, BSP chief Mayawati has turned her attention to Muslim voters to bounce back in Uttar Pradesh electoral politics.

Mayawati on Wednesday said the BSP would form 'Muslim Bhaichara Committees' in all the 18 divisions in the state, whose members would reach out to the members of the Muslim community.

Each 'bhaichara' committee would have a Dalit and a Muslim as convenors, and their task would be to hold meetings in the Muslim-dominated areas in the state and persuade them to join the party.

BSP supremo Mayawati

Mayawati, who presided over a meeting of the party office bearers, said that the 'bhaichara' committee members would, particularly, apprise the Muslims about the welfare measures taken by the BSP when it was in power in UP.

Mayawati also appealed to the Muslim community to support her party instead of the Congress and the Samajwadi Party (SP) to counter the BJP in the state. "Congress and SP have failed to counter the BJP... Only the BSP has the capability to defeat the communal forces," she said.

Mayawati assured the Muslims that her party would work for their welfare without any discrimination if it came to power in the state.

The BSP supremo had recently addressed an impressive rally of party supporters on the occasion of BSP founder Kanshiram's death anniversary here, in which she had declared that her party would go solo in the 2027 UP Assembly polls.

BSP has been struggling to stay politically relevant in the state after losing power in the 2012 Assembly polls.

LONE WARRIOR

Tej Pratap Yadav is down, but certainly not out

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Call it a war within Lalu Prasad's family or a 'Mahabharat' between the self-proclaimed Krishna (Tej Pratap Yadav) and Arjun (Tejashwi Yadav). The battlefield of Mahua is drawing as much attention as Raghopur.

However, there is a major difference between the two constituencies.

While Raghopur is looking to elect the Lalu-Rabri heir apparent, Tejashwi Yadav, who could be the Bihar CM if the Mahagatbandhan is voted to power, Mahua is in the news after Lalu's elder son Tej Pratap, expelled from the RJD as well as the family, is in the fray as his newly-floated outfit Janshakti Janata Dal (JJD) candidate.

While both brothers are contesting from Vaishali (which gave India its first republic), the contrast is quite palpable.

When Tejashwi filed his nomination papers, he was flanked by his father Lalu Prasad, his mother and former CM Rabri Devi and elder sister Misa Bharti.

However, when Tej Pratap submitted his nomination papers, not one member from the family accompanied him.

"The RJD, as well as Lalu ji's family, now treat Tej Pratap as a pariah. And Tej Pratap is himself to be blamed for the mess," said an RJD insider who has worked closely with the two brothers.

"Ever since he first became an MLA from Mahua in 2015 (and then again from Hasanpur in Samastipur in 2020), he has remained in the news for all the wrong reasons. His social media post a few months back, where he confessed to being in a relationship for the last 12 years, even though his petition for divorce (with estranged wife) is pending in the court, was the last straw for Lalu Prasad," the RJD leader averred.

Mother's 'backing'

Amid the family war, Rabri Devi is silently backing him in Mahua even though Tejashwi has fielded Mukesh Raushan against him. Mukesh, a sitting RJD MLA, explained to his voters why it is necessary to defeat Tej Pratap. "This election will make Tejashwi a CM. Therefore, it's important that you help every RJD candidate win," he said.

With the animosity between the brothers showing no sign of rapprochement, Tej Pratap himself slammed the door.

"Will prefer death over returning to the RJD," said Tej Pratap, anguished over the treatment meted out to him.

However, news pouring in from Mahua suggests that there is a silent sympathy wave for Tej Pratap, who is locked in a four-cornered contest with Mukesh of the RJD, Dr Parveen (a doctor by profession and a friend of Dr Misa Bharti and daughter of Lalu's aide and former minister Illiyas Hussain) as an Independent, and the NDA candidate Sanjay Singh.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

States cannot be casual with critical care

The Supreme Court has done well to reprimand senior health officials for adopting a "casual approach" towards its order on uniform guidelines for patient management in Intensive Care Units (ICUs) and Critical Care Units (CCUs) in hospitals. It has directed top officials from 28 states and UTs to appear before it on November 20 with "personally affirmed show-cause affidavits" explaining why contempt action should not be taken against them for their laxity. In 2016, the apex court, acting on a petition, recognised the need for guidelines in the treatment of patients in ICUs and CCUs. A committee formed by the central government informed the Court that the guidelines could not be framed without inputs from the states. Model guidelines formulated by the central government in 2023 could not be finalised without the states' recommendations, since health is a state subject, and these recommendations also needed to be specific to the needs of the states. Most of the states failed to submit their reports on the matter, despite repeated directions from the Court.

ICUs and CCUs are integral to the functioning of emergency care in hospitals and need a standardised and comprehensive set of guidelines. These guidelines are critical at a time when healthcare infrastructure is found wanting in most parts of the country, and the number of people involved in accidents and suffering from serious ailments is rising. Facilities for advanced treatment are not available in many towns and villages. There are many states without Level 1 trauma centres. Apart from the shortcomings in critical care infrastructure, hospitals are being reported for admitting patients in ICUs and CCUs when they can provide the required care in their standard facilities. The Court's intervention was aimed at formulating a standardised procedure for the functioning of care units, apart from determining admission norms and grading the units based on the hospital's capacity and patient volume. These are important parameters that contribute to the overall effectiveness of critical care in hospitals.

ICUs and CCUs need standardised operational guidelines. States must be proactive with their recommendations

The guidelines formulated by the central government addressed some of the issues, such as inconsistencies in the admission criteria. They defined the level of illness that demands admission to the ICU and laid down the admission and discharge criteria. Only eight states and UTs are reported to have taken note of them and made some progress in implementation. Framing effective guidelines on the matter without the states' involvement will be difficult. The Court's rap will, hopefully, lead to a positive outcome.

Unsafe streets, misplaced blame

It is shameful that two visiting Australian cricketers were stalked and molested in Indore last week. The cricketers who are in India for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup had stepped out of their hotel and were walking towards a café when the offender approached them and touched one of them inappropriately. Police have claimed that the molester was caught soon, but that is poor consolation, coming after the incident, which happened in a public space. Answers are due from the city and its administrators, but the act also shows India in a poor light.

The incident is a huge embarrassment for a country that aspires to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games and the 2036 Olympic Games. While the state cricket authorities have hinted that the two players possibly violated the security protocol, the Australian team has denied it. Madhya Pradesh minister Kailash Vijayvargiya said the players should have informed the security or the local administration before leaving the hotel. The cricketer is being blamed for the attack, but this is a familiar pattern in similar cases reported in India. She is blamed for being at the place where she was during the attack, though the State has the responsibility to ensure the safety of women at any and every place. The claim that Indore has been considered a 'safe city' is not tenable against the backdrop of such an incident.

The molestation of cricketers in Indore is a grim statement on women's safety in India's public spaces

The case is a wake-up call for the enforcers of law and order, tourism authorities, and organisers of international events. Foreigners, particularly tourists, are regarded as soft targets in the country. Recently, a Brazilian model was allegedly molested by a grocery delivery agent in Bengaluru; earlier this year, a French woman was allegedly raped in Rajasthan. These cases should not be seen in isolation. They reflect an alarming, yet normalised, lack of safety for women. The priority here should be in assuring women, foreign or Indian, a safe environment to be. The Indore molestation has hit headlines outside India; these violations also sully the country's image. Some countries, including the US, the UK, and Australia, have issued travel advisories to women who visit India. Many times, these alerts have come true. The Commonwealth Sport General Assembly is to make a decision on Ahmedabad hosting the Games. India has also made a pitch for the Olympic Games in 2036. Transgressions such as the Indore incident do not go well with such ambition.

COSTS OF COMPETITION

Incentive wars: Why walking away can be wiser

By backing out of the race for Google's AI data centre, Karnataka has chosen prudence and restraint over optics

RAJEEV R TRIPATHI

In a world that glorifies relentless competition, Karnataka's refusal to outbid Andhra Pradesh for Google's $15 billion AI data centre may seem like a loss, but in game theory – and governance – wisdom often lies in knowing when not to play. In game theory, a war of attrition describes a contest where two players keep spending resources to outlast each other. The winner is the one who holds out longer, but often ends up worse off than if it had walked away early.

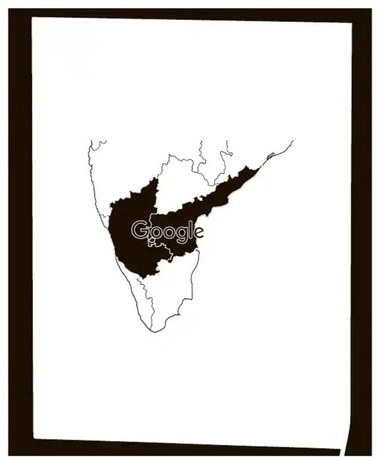
I see this dynamic play out every year in my MBA classroom during the Rupee Auction Game. I auction a Rs 500 note in an open-cry format. The rules are simple: the highest bidder wins the note, but both the highest and the second-highest bidders must pay their respective bids. What starts as a playful experiment soon turns serious. As bids rise, ego overtakes logic. I have seen students bid Rs 1,000 for that Rs 500 note – driven not by logic, but by the urge to "win".

That same logic seems to underpin the current debate over Google's decision to invest $15 billion in a 1-GW AI data centre in Andhra Pradesh instead of Karnataka. Almost immediately, commentators framed it as a "missed opportunity" and a "policy failure" for Bengaluru. Yet, beneath this narrative lies a nuanced story.

Reports suggest that Andhra Pradesh offered incentives worth Rs 22,000 crore, including 25% subsidies on land and water, free electricity, and reimbursement of state GST. On paper, this looks like a major victory. But as with the Rupee Auction Game, the real question is: at what cost?

Data centres are among the most energy- and water-intensive infrastructures in the digital economy. They consume vast quantities of power and potable water for cooling. Navi Mumbai, which hosts nearly 60% of India's data centres, has seen its average water demand surge from 350 million to 460 million litres per day – even as residents face periodic water shortages for drinking and household purposes. The benefits of attracting such projects must, therefore, be weighed against their long-term ecological and social costs too.

Around the world, multinational firms have mastered the art of triggering incentive wars between governments, extracting concessions that can erode public value. Consider Amazon's HQ2 contest in 2018, seeking a location for its $5-billion second headquarters in North America. Newark, New Jersey, one of the 20 finalists, offered an extraordinary $7 billion in tax breaks, grants, and rebates. Economists and activists labelled the frenzied contest "anti-competitive," urging governments to collaborate instead of undercutting each other. When Amazon finally chose Arlington, Virginia, and Queens, New



York, the latter's $1.5 billion incentive package sparked such public outrage that the company withdrew months later. The supposed prize turned into a public relations debacle.

In 2014, Tesla invited US states to bid for its $5-billion Gigafactory. Nevada won by offering $1.4 billion in incentives, including free land, tax abatements, and electricity discounts. Later disclosures revealed that the company had engineered a war of attrition-like contest among states, ensuring it would profit, no matter who won. These episodes illustrate a pattern: corporations gain leverage by exploiting political competition. Governments, fearing the optics of "losing" investment, overcommit public resources for short-term headlines.

Over the past few years, India has emerged as one of the world's most promising data centre markets. In January, Maharashtra announced an $8.3 billion investment from AWS, part of the company's larger $12.7 billion plan to develop cloud infrastructure in India by 2030. Reportedly, more than 15 major players – from Japan's NTT and Singapore's STT GDC to India's Reliance and Adani – are competing for space in this fast-growing market.

India's appeal is clear: lower power costs, abundant land, and expanding renewable energy capacity make it attractive for energy-hungry infrastructure. But this digital gold rush comes with ecological and governance challenges that are easy to overlook.

The right, rational choice

A single 20 MW data centre using conventional water-cooling systems can consume over 1.3 million litres of potable water daily. As cities like Navi Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai host ever more data centres, their already strained water supplies are being pushed to the brink. Experts warn that 40% of Indian cities could run out of drinking water by 2030.

Globally, the environmental impact of data centres is becoming impossible to ignore. Google's own emissions have risen 51% since 2019, despite its renewable energy investments. The UN's International Telecommunication Union reports that operational emissions from major tech firms – Amazon, Microsoft, Meta, and Alphabet – have risen between 138% and 182% since 2020. In effect, the infrastructure powering our digital future is quietly becoming one of its largest climate challenges.

The competition for data centres is the new frontier in India's industrial policy. With cloud computing, AI, and digital infrastructure expanding rapidly, states are eager to host these billion-dollar facilities. Entering an incentive war for data centres – which bring limited direct employment and heavy environmental costs – risks turning public competition into a negative-sum game, where every player ends up worse off.

Here, quitting early can be the smartest move. Yet, in a society that glorifies victory and frowns upon retreat, walking away is often mistaken for weakness. It is not. It is a recognition that not every prize is worth the price.

If India's states learn to cooperate instead of undercutting each other – setting common benchmarks, environmental standards, and fiscal limits – the country could turn these corporate contests into truly sustainable partnerships. Recognising when *not* to play – when the cost of winning outweighs the benefits – is a mark of foresight that policymakers must exercise.

Karnataka's decision might appear cautious, even defeatist. But in game theory terms, it could reflect an understanding that rationality sometimes lies in restraint, not escalation.

(The writer is an assistant professor at IIM Bangalore)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Finding heaven mid-air

A missed flight led to the most beautiful twist in my journey

H S ANNAPURNA

When I landed in London from Seattle after an hour's delay, I had missed my connecting flight to Bengaluru — and there were none available for the next 24 hours. It was going to be a long wait at the airport. The airline provided food coupons and asked us to rest as best as we could while we waited. But there were so many stranded passengers like me that there weren't enough seats to relax in, and there were long queues formed for food and water bottles.

I was exhausted after my flight and approached the British Airways counter to see if they could put me on any alternate route to Bengaluru. The only option was to fly via Muscat. I immediately agreed—anything was better than waiting an entire day.

After landing in Muscat, I looked around and noticed I was perhaps the only woman there with a large bindi. A few people glanced at me curiously, and I felt a little self-conscious initially. Just then a kind woman in a burqa helped me with directions and made me feel comfortable. I boarded the connecting flight to Bengaluru with her assistance.

I was thrilled to get an exit-row seat where I could stretch my legs after more than 20 hours of travel. Tired, hungry and anxious because I hadn't yet informed my family about the change in flight and route, I settled in. Just then, a tall, robed gentleman took the seat next to me. It was my first close encounter with someone from the Arab world.

Once seated, he began speaking on his phone, and I happened to overhear familiar names — 'Bhagirath' and 'Narayan'. I looked up in surprise. He noticed and, with a smile, asked if I would like to use his phone to make a call. I jumped at the offer and quickly informed my husband about my new flight details and arrival time in Bengaluru. Relieved, I thanked him profusely.

Soon, a wave of exhaustion took over, and I fell asleep. All of a sudden, I woke up to the unbelievable and irresistible aroma of *sambar*. For a moment, I was disoriented — I looked out of the window to see the shimmering green waters of the Arabian Sea below. The aircraft seemed to float in stillness, and before me was a steaming hot plate of *idli* and *sambar*.

At that instant, I felt as though I had reached heaven. I thought this must be how the gods feel in heaven. In all my countless trips, I have never had such a beautiful, comforting experience. I can never forget this beautiful experience of warmth and the unforgettable taste of home.

Thank you, Muscat!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

End discrimination against NIOS students

It is alarming that despite full recognition by the AICTE, UGC, and the Ministry of Education, students of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) continue to face unfair rejection during college admissions. According to NIOS data, over 3.5 lakh learners graduate annually, yet many professional and technical colleges still deny them seats, dismissing their education as "non-regular." Such systemic ignorance not only violates the principle of educational equality but also undermines students' morale. Admission portals often omit NIOS from the list of recognised boards, further marginalising deserving candidates. The government must institute strict monitoring mechanisms, conduct awareness drives for educational institutions, and provide counselling support for NIOS learners. Equal opportunity in higher education must include every legitimate learner — including those from open schooling.

Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

Governance and sanctity

The alleged theft of about 4.5 kg of gold from the Ayyappa Temple at Sabarimala in Kerala is shocking. The SIT constituted by the Kerala High Court to probe the heist is on the trail of the culprits, some of whom are reportedly hiding in Karnataka. All those responsible must be given stringent and exemplary punishment. The reality is that many places of worship have turned into commercial centres for those who manage them, exploiting people's faith. In Kerala, as elsewhere, the government seems to view temples under its control as revenue-generating institutions rather than as centres of spirituality. Profanity appears to rule the roost in matters that ought to be governed by sanctity. The alleged heist at Sabarimala debunks the belief that government-controlled places of worship are safer. In Karnataka, some time ago, the Gali Anjaneyaswamy Temple in Bengaluru was taken over by the Muzrai Department following allegations of misappropriation and mismanagement. When a government-controlled place of worship faces such scandals, should it be privatised?

K R Jayaprakash Rao, Mysuru

Find solutions

Apropos 'We can't stop people from using cars, says DKS' (Oct 29), while the government may not be able to restrict the use of private vehicles, it must seriously explore viable alternatives. A comprehensive review should be undertaken to find suitable solutions, including measures such as Delhi's odd–even vehicle rule. Improving the efficiency and reliability of public transport is certainly a key step towards reducing dependence on private vehicles.

A K Shariff, Mysuru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

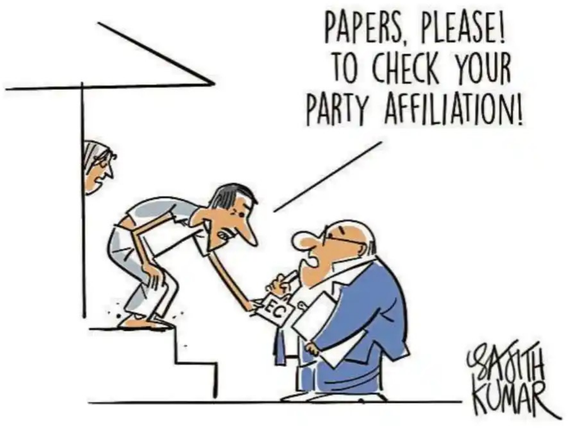
Next time local BJP leaders come to your area, stop them and ask them to furnish their parents' certificates. Tie them to a tree or lamp post and tell them they won't be released until they produce their parents' and grandparents' documents...

Abhishek Banerjee, TMC national general secretary

Of violence the world is sick. Oh, India, dare to be worthy of your Gandhi.

Pearl S Buck

TO BE PRECISE



IN PERSPECTIVE

The bourgeoisie doesn't run Bengaluru

Privilege speaks from gated enclaves, while we remain disconnected from the idea of equity and public good

JANAKI NAIR

The 'war of all against all' that the roads in Bengaluru have triggered recently turned into a war of words between the city's bourgeoisie and its political class. Why, in a city bristling with scientific expertise, highly motivated and informed urban change activists, are there no political takers for their clearly outlined solutions? The bourgeoisie (entrepreneurs, media professionals, lawyers, technical experts, financiers, and even educators who enable a capitalist mode of production) blame the predicament on the political class for a 'lack of will', and Bengalureans' lack of 'civic pride'. Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's response reminded Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw of his duty towards democracy, but also attributed both the problems and solutions to god.

Both of them would do well to take a course on Modern City 101. Why has the Indian city become the site of squalor and inefficiency, unable to solve basic problems? Lewis Mumford, that brilliant historian of the city, described the horrors of the Victorian city in the first half of the 19th century: the world's first industrialisation was underway, the railways tore through the fabric of the city, and the industrial slum came into being. Capitalism's very survival was at stake. But the 'disease produced its own antibodies'. By the late 19th century, there was new statist intervention in housing, transportation, and in controlling effluents and noxious gases. The problems produced a whole new discipline – urban planning. And some of these solutions saw the active involvement of the bourgeoisie in the form of concessions made to the working poor. The public park arose from such largesse.

In Bengaluru, the disease has not produced antibodies, since the bourgeoisie has chosen not to transform the city they inhabit and share, but to withdraw from it. The gated enclave epitomises the private promise of planning, which has monumentally failed as a public/statist good. It is an example of how capitalism makes its peace with – even benefits from – grotesque inequalities. The road may be their only encounter with democracy.

But why is there in Indian society such widespread unconcern about garbage/public cleanliness, order on the streets, and disrespect for the needs of others? This takes us beyond the economic to the social. We have no shared understanding of the 'public', and what might sustain and nurture spaces and facilities for the use and enjoyment of all equally. For one, steep inequalities make one person's comfortable footpath another person's livelihood. Likewise, the road is a space available for multiple public uses, not for cars alone. Pandals are installed across streets for festivals, weddings, or any other events; roads are dug up and blocked by private parties. Cacophony is exercised as a right.

The city as a public asset

But perhaps what we need to acknowledge are the hard-wired habits of caste that have taught Indians that they are not responsible for the waste they produce. Swachch Bharat's spectacular failures arise from the refusal to acknowledge and tackle this deep-seated distaste, across all classes, for cleaning up one's own mess. Why do all pourakarmikas come from specific castes for whom cleaning has long been their exclusive burden? Japanese school children – including tots – spend their lunch breaks cleaning their toilets. Imagine the moral panic and hysteria that such an idea will create here.

So, hand-wringing apart, what is to be done? Bengaluru has an opportunity to blaze new trails, but they will not be the bourgeoisie's preferred resolutions. The city has to be seen as a public asset serving the largest number of people, and not car owners alone. No god can ensure this. The State can.

The answer is not in creating more road surfaces or tunnels, but in reducing (private) automobile usage. Odd-even, until the public transport system is strengthened. Neither those who argue 'Do You Know Who I Am?' or 'We Are Like That Only' should be spared fines for violating municipal rules and traffic laws. It is wiser to rely on bribe-proof mechanical measures for traffic and crowd control: resident parking permits, parking meters, work-from-home days, walk-from-home days, staggered office and school timings, and strictly pedestrian zones. Quadrupled municipal taxes, systems of public accountability, and the slow, painful but urgent task of cultivating shared values of empathy, compassion, and tolerance among young Indians.

All this calls for nothing less than a revolution. But it won't be the bourgeois revolution that some may want.

(The writer is a retired professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University)

Will the Thackeray brand of politics endure in Maharashtra?

DATELINE MUMBAI

MRITYUNJAY BOSE

On July 16, 2012, when Uddhav suddenly experienced breathlessness and chest pain during his daily routine inside the iconic Matoshree bungalow in Bandra, Mumbai, panic gripped the Thackeray household.

Even before a collective decision could be taken about what had to be done, Shiv Sena supremo, the late Balasaheb Thackeray, dialled his nephew Raj, who was in Raigad district in the coastal Konkan region. "Dadu has been rushed to hospital," Balasaheb told him, referring to his son, Uddhav.

Without losing a minute, Raj --known as Raja in the family – turned his Mercedes around and raced to Mumbai to reach Lilavati Hospital and Research Centre. That evening, he drove Uddhav back home and then headed for his home, Krishna Kunj, off Shivaji Park at Dadar. Photographs of the smiling cousins at Matoshree's doorstep, seven years after their split, were splashed across newspapers.

The Thackeray family has always been closely knit. Uddhav's father, Balasaheb, and Raj's father, the noted music composer Shrikant Thackeray, were brothers. Uddhav's late mother, Meenatai, and Raj's mother, Kundatai, were sisters.

Uddhav (65) and Raj (59) grew up together under Balasaheb's tutelage, imbibing lessons in politics, art, literature, and culture -- and the distinctive style often known as the Thakeri language.

When the cousins parted ways in 2005, the political landscape in Maharashtra and India was very different. Uddhav took charge of the Shiv Sena, founded by his father, while Raj launched Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) in March 2006.

However, 2025 drove changes within the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), commanded by Uddhav following the split of the Shiv Sena engineered by once-ally BJP through Eknath Shinde and also the MNS.

The question now is whether Uddhav and Raj would come together after 20 years, as there are indications of a Sena (UBT)-MNS electoral alliance.

Once, Raj and Uddhav sat on either side of Balasaheb at public functions and were inseparable. Raj was charismatic, a cartoonist and caricaturist and an excellent orator like Balasaheb, while Uddhav was an excellent photographer who was calm and composed.

The differences among the cousins started in the early 2000s. In February 2003, it was Raj himself who had proposed Uddhav's name as executive president of the Shiv Sena when Balasaheb began to scale back his workload. But soon after, differences surfaced. Balasaheb made repeated efforts to reconcile the two -- even invoking the Marathi poem *Ya chimanyano parat phira re* (birds, come back to the nest) in a *Saamana* editorial – but the break proved permanent. However, both chose to keep personal relationships aside and moved on.

Over the years, Uddhav and Raj crossed paths only at family gatherings, occasionally taking public potshots at each other. However, Raj honoured Uddhav's invitation in November 2019 and attended his swearing-in as Chief Minister of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition -- comprising the undivided Shiv Sena, Congress and the Sharad Pawar-led undivided NCP -- marking a thaw of sorts.

The political situation changed again after the 2022 Shiv Sena split engineered by the BJP through Eknath Shinde and the 2023 NCP split led by Ajit Pawar. The MVA had performed creditably in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, though Raj did not contest and supported Prime Minister Narendra Modi. However, both cousins suffered setbacks in the subsequent Assembly elections in 2024 — Uddhav's UBT faction won just 20 seats, while the Raj-led MNS, who contested independently, failed to open an account. The MNS won 11 seats in 2009 and one each in 2014 and 2019.

Earlier this year, Uddhav and Raj appeared together at several events, united on the issue of promoting the Marathi language. They have been seen together at least eight or nine times in recent months, rekindling hopes among party cadres of a broader political reunion.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) wants MNS to be included in the MVA in the run-up to the Maharashtra mega local body elections, but the Congress leaders are opposed to it, fearing Raj's previous positions -- on migrants, particularly those from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, and the loudspeaker controversy -- could alienate urban minority votes. The Congress leadership also fears the partnership may have a negative impact in the local polls, as Maharashtra's urban pockets of Mumbai, Thane, Pune, Nashik, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Nagpur and Amravati house a large migrant population. Yet another concern of the Congress is Raj's proximity to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

Still, for many Maharashtrians and the workers of Shiv Sena (UBT) and MNS, the possibility of the Thackeray cousins joining hands is an emotional issue. Such a reunion, however, is definitely a concern for Shinde, the former chief minister and now Deputy CM, who commands the Shiv Sena.

The Thackeray-brand -- a blend of charisma, cultural pride, and street-level connection – continues to hold a special place in Maharashtra politics. Whether that legacy now takes a new, united form remains to be seen.

DHNS

Aid to the devastated territory has increased since the ceasefire took effect and prices have fallen. But many trucks going into Gaza are bringing food to sell that most cannot afford

LIAM STACK

A Palestinian man stands on top of food aid after the truck entered Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip. Aid agencies complain that humanitarian convoys still do not have enough access to Gaza to alleviate the famine conditions. AFP

More food reaches Gaza, but it's still not enough

Hundreds of trucks enter the Gaza Strip daily now. Some carry aid from international organisations. Others bring donations from foreign governments. But relief workers say most of what is going in appears to be commercial goods bound for markets.

While there is no question that aid flows have increased since the ceasefire began two weeks ago, many residents say they cannot afford to buy the food that is for sale.

"Most of the trucks are of a commercial nature, and after two years of this war, most Gazans are unable to purchase items from the markets," said Bahaa Zaqout, a spokesperson for the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee. "The prices of the items that are entering are very expensive."

Gaza resident Rami Abu Moleg, 45, said his family had eaten chicken for the first time in eight months on October 24, but only because his brother-in-law had paid for it. The price of chicken has dropped dramatically since the ceasefire, from about $33 per pound to about $12, he added.

"This is still expensive for me, but at least it went down," said Abu Moleg, who drove a taxi before the war. "Everything in the market entered Gaza for the traders. It was not aid."

The war in Gaza began after the Hamas-led October 7, 2023, attack on Israel, during which roughly 1,200 people were killed and 250 taken hostage. Since then, Israel's military campaign has killed more than 68,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials. It also created an immense humanitarian crisis.

The war destroyed Gaza's infrastructure and economy. It shut down schools and knocked out the electrical grid. It has devastated health care and deprived people of clean water and adequate food. In August, a UN-backed panel declared famine in and around Gaza City, and the following month, a separate UN commission accused Israel of committing genocide.

Israel has denied that there is famine in Gaza, saying the panel used flawed methodology, and has also denied the genocide allegations.

The ceasefire has eased the distress to some degree, allowing more aid to move in.

Tess Ingram, a spokesperson in Gaza for UNICEF, said the UN Children's Fund had doubled the number of aid pallets it brings in each day since the ceasefire began. That still fell well short of the needs.

"It is not enough," she said. "We want to get even more than that. We have the capacity to bring in higher volumes of aid."

The ceasefire called for 600 trucks in total to enter Gaza daily, including those affiliated with aid groups, government donations and commercial trucks from the private sector.

On some days, more than 600 trucks enter, according to US and UN officials. But only some carry aid.

According to UN data, which does not account for goods donated directly by countries or commercial trucks, the daily number of trucks from aid groups has never passed 200 during the truce.

COGAT, the Israeli military agency that controls the flow of aid into Gaza, has declined to provide a daily tally since the ceasefire began. A COGAT statement Friday said "hundreds of trucks carrying food, water, fuel, gas, medicines, medical equipment, tents and shelter supplies enter the Gaza Strip every day."

A number of Gaza residents told *The New York Times* that they see a wider range of goods in local markets than they had seen throughout the war and that prices are falling after a wartime spike in inflation. But some of what is available in markets is not highly nutritious, and much of it is unaffordable.

Zaqout said he had been frustrated to see Israel "allowing merchants to bring in items like biscuits, chocolate and soda" at a time when many suffer from hunger and malnutrition. "We need lifesaving items," he said.

The rejuvenation of the private sector is an important part of recovering from the war's devastation and addressing people's needs, said Shaina Low, a spokesperson for the Norwegian Refugee Council.

"But we need to make sure the commercial is not coming in at the expense of aid or in lieu of aid," she said. The challenge now is "a combination of things entering that do not meet people's needs, and the things that do enter being unaffordable," she added.

"Many of the things entering on the commercial trucks are not of nutritional value," she said. "If you have malnourished people, they need protein and fresh fruit and vegetables, not chocolate."

A COGAT spokesperson said Sunday that Israel has not restricted the entrance of "high-energy food products" suitable for addressing Gaza's health needs, and that relative luxuries like chocolate should not be viewed as replacing other goods.

On October 24, the UN humanitarian office outlined the ways that aid had expanded since the ceasefire began October 10.

It said aid groups had established 20 new nutrition centres and 20 mobile health teams in Gaza, and distributed more than one million hot meals each day. They have also delivered 32,000 jars of baby food and enough therapeutic food to treat more than 1,200 children suffering from acute malnutrition.

The World Food Programme has brought in 750 metric tons of food each day, said Antoine Renard, its director for the Palestinian territories. But he said their goal had been 2,000 metric tons.

One of the biggest problems facing Gaza is a lack of clean drinking water, aid workers said. On October 24, the United Nations said it had brought in goods to help people in the short term, including 140 water tanks and thousands of buckets and jerrycans to carry that water home.

But what is really needed are extensive repairs to the devastated water and sewage treatment system. That requires items that Israel has not been willing to let into Gaza, saying it fears they could be used for militant activities. Those materials include spare parts for damaged machines, generators to operate those machines, construction materials to repair facilities, pipes to send water through, and chemicals to treat water, said Ingram.

Data from last week illustrates the challenge of determining how much aid is getting into Gaza.

Information provided by US officials showed that 784 trucks entered Gaza on October 22. UN data from the same day showed 199 of the trucks were affiliated with humanitarian groups. But there were no breakdowns available on how many trucks entered with aid provided by governments or with commercial goods.

Aid groups said part of the problem is a new Israeli registration system that requires them to identify their Palestinian employees. Israel says the measure is meant to keep suspected Hamas members from handling aid, but some groups have declined to provide the information out of fear it could endanger their staff.

On October 23, a group of 41 international organisations, including Doctors Without Borders and Oxfam, said Israeli authorities had denied their requests to bring aid into Gaza 99 times since the ceasefire began.

In most cases, the aid groups said they were told their request was denied because they were not authorised to deliver aid under the new system, even though many had worked in Gaza for decades. That meant roughly $50 million of supplies had gone undelivered, including tents, food, clothing, bedding and hygiene supplies, they said. COGAT said if the groups wished to deliver those goods, they should complete the registration process.

Fresh attacks: Israeli strikes killed at least 100 people across Gaza overnight, local health officials said, in what appeared to be the deadliest day since Israel and Hamas agreed on a cease-fire three weeks ago.

The strikes began late Tuesday after the Israeli government accused Hamas of violating the truce by failing to return the bodies of dead captives and by attacking Israeli forces in Rafah, southern Gaza. The Israeli military said one of its soldiers, Master Sgt. Yona Efraim, had been killed in the Rafah attack.

The New York Times

Democracy can't be ensured from custody

J K ARORA

The introduction of the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025, in the Lok Sabha on August 20, 2025, marks a rare and candid acknowledgement that India's Parliament and state legislatures are increasingly dominated by members facing criminal cases. The current Lok Sabha has 251 MPs with pending criminal cases, compared with 162 in 2009.

The Bill proposes that if the prime minister, ministers or chief ministers are arrested and detained in custody for 30 consecutive days for offences carrying a jail term of at least five years, they will automatically lose their position on the 31st day. While this is a step forward, it implicitly admits the possibility of individuals with serious criminal charges occupying the highest executive officers—including that of PM or CMs —and refusing to step down even if detained.

The Bill has rightly been referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for further examination, though the committee has yet to be fully constituted, as the I.N.D.I.A. bloc has not finalised its participation.

There can be little disagreement that strong laws are needed to deal with top political executives facing grave criminal charges while in office. However, the proposed Bill is weak. Allowing them to continue in offices for up to 30 days while under detention could have disastrous consequences.

Can a prime minister or chief minister in custody discharge their duties from jail? Should they be allowed to return to office after securing bail? Can an impartial investigation be conducted against a sitting PM or CM? Would they not use their authority and influence to obstruct the probe? At the same time, how do we ensure that the ruling dispensation does not misuse its power to target political opponents? The present Bill fails to strike this balance.

The following framework could make the law more effective and credible:

i. The PM, CMs and the ministers have different responsibilities and can continue to hold these offices as long as they enjoy the confidence of different institutions or individuals, like the Lok Sabha in the case of the PM, the state Vidhan Sabhas in the case of the CMs and the PM or the CMs in the case of Central and State Ministers, respectively. Therefore, they cannot be treated with the same set of provisions dealing with their criminal offences while still holding these constitutional positions.

ii. A minister who remains in detention for more than 48 hours should be deemed to have been removed from office. The PM or the CM concerned should immediately make alternative arrangements to ensure continuity of governance.

iii. The offices of the PM and CMs are critical to the functioning of the nation and states. They also enjoy the confidence of their respective legislatures and, through them, the confidence of Indian citizens and the states, respectively. However, there is a vast difference between the powers and responsibilities of the PM and CMs. Any interruption in leadership could have serious implications for national security, law and order and administrative stability. Therefore, while the removal of these top functionaries must be carefully regulated, they should not be subjected to the same provisions.

iv. The prime minister should be detained only if it becomes absolutely necessary and after the Supreme Court has carefully gone through the material placed before it by the investigating agency and gives its approval for his detention. The matter should be decided by the nine senior-most judges' bench of the Supreme Court with a two-thirds majority, and then only the PM should be detained. And once the PM is detained, then he should be deemed to have been removed from his office, and the number two in the Cabinet must be sworn in as the PM. The new incumbent will have to seek the confidence of the Lok Sabha within 15 days of his becoming the PM. The PM thus removed can become eligible to become the PM again only after he is finally acquitted of the charges.

v. The provisions for the removal of the CM and his replacement should be similar to that of the PM as mentioned above, except that the Supreme Court bench of five senior-most judges should examine the material placed before it by the investigating agency and decide the matter through a simple majority.

The JPC must therefore be constituted without delay and should consult widely before finalising its recommendations. It should aim for strong, transparent that deter criminal elements from occupying high office, while safeguarding against political vendetta.

One can only hope that such laws remain on paper — never needed in practice.

(The writer is a retired IAS officer)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 1975

91 killed in Beirut clashes as civil war hots up

Beirut, October 29
At least 91 persons were killed and 115 wounded in the 24 hours as Lebanon's civil war raged with increased ferocity today in the capital's main streets. The toll of factional violence now stands at 925. Street fighting raged around Beirut's major tourist hotels, where more than 100 foreigners and Lebanese were reported trapped. Security officials said there were many areas they could not penetrate to recover casualties. Convoys of cars took foreigners to the airport for flights out of the country.

25 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 2000

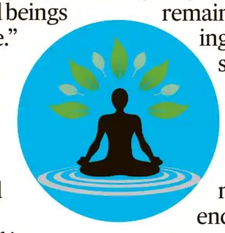
Prasada challenges Sonia's supremacy

New Delhi, Oct. 29
Mr Jitendra Prasada, senior Congress Working Committee member, today filed five sets of nomination papers at the AICC office here to contest against Ms Sonia Gandhi for the party's top post. The polling is scheduled for November 12. He became the first party member ever to force a contest on a member of the Nehru-Gandhi family for the party president's post. This would only be the fourth occasion in the 111-year-old history of the Congress that the ballot would decide the party chief.

OASIS | ANITHA RAMACHANDER

The paradox of being

Do we truly need someone else to guide us on our spiritual journey? Many of us do not realise that spirituality already resides within each of us. It isn't something we seek or search for in distant places or during workshops. We often look outside ourselves and search in others for something that already exists inside us. Many believe that spirituality is solely about meditation, rituals, or visiting sacred sites, and they often confuse it with religious practice. Spiritual moments are actually quieter, internal experiences that can be pursued without adhering to any particular faith or organisation. In the chaos of our busy lives, these moments can go unnoticed.



Even small things can feel sacred if we take the time to observe them. As Pierre Teilhard de Chardin said, "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience; we are spiritual beings having a human experience." A vital part of spirituality is establishing a connection with something greater than ourselves. Peace, gratitude, awareness, and acceptance are all nurtured by that connection.

A spiritual life is reflected in mindful daily actions, guided by a growing sense of self-awareness. This becomes evident in honest conversations, attentive listening to those we care about, preparing a meal with love for ourselves and others, and in many other ways that show that simple tasks gain greater significance when we remain aware of our thoughts, feelings, and surroundings. A strong sense of spirituality often manifests as kindness. We can find a profound understanding of purpose right where we are.

Small acts of kindness make a meaningful difference. This inner strength grows stronger when we choose gratitude over complaints, calmness over anger, and compassion over indifference. Acceptance is an essential part of life's journey, which constantly involves change, uncertainty, and challenges. When we remember that situations and emotions pass through us, we give ourselves space to pause and respond.

We learn to remain present in the moment by practising mindfulness and observing our thoughts, which transforms spirituality into an authentic and meaningful experience. Our connection with life deepens when we appreciate the simple beauty of everyday moments that we create for ourselves and others. This is the true purpose. Our conscious presence, each breath we take, and the choices we make become more meaningful, reminding us that we are genuinely spiritual beings living a human life.

India, China reaffirm peace & tranquillity along LAC in eastern Ladakh

Fresh round of talks held at Moldo-Chushul border point

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Ahead of winter, top military commanders from India and China have met at Chushul-Moldo border point on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) to review the ground situation, and reaffirmed that the two sides had maintained "peace and tranquillity" along the disputed boundary.

The Corps Commander-level talks in eastern Ladakh happened days ahead of the ASEAN defence ministers' summit, where Rajnath Singh will share India's stand on regional security issues before his counterparts from other countries, including China and the US.

In two separate statements, the Union Ministry of External Affairs and the Chinese Foreign Ministry on Wednesday said both sides held "active and in-depth communication" on the management of the western sector of the India-China boundary at the October 25 meeting.

'Resolve issues'

"The two sides noted the progress since the 22nd round of Corps Commander-level meeting held in October 2024, and shared the view that peace and tranquillity had been maintained in the India-China border areas. Both sides agreed to continue to use existing mechanisms to resolve any ground issues along the border to maintain stability," said the Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in a brief statement.

In the wake of the 2020 LAC flare-up and the Galwan clash, New Delhi and Beijing have been holding talks at the diplomatic and military levels to address thorny issues related to the 3,488-km-long boundary that separates the two Asian nations.

"The 23rd round of the India-China Corps Commander-level meeting at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point was the first one of the General Level Mechanisms in the Western Sector since the 24th round of Special Representatives Talks held on August 19. The talks were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere," said the MEA. In August, India and China agreed on a series of measures to improve bilateral ties.

Meanwhile, Rajnath will attend the 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus in Kuala Lumpur on November 1.

On the sidelines, the second edition of the ASEAN-India Defence Ministers' informal meeting, under the chairmanship of Malaysia, will be held on October 31, wherein defence ministers from all ASEAN countries will participate, aiming to further strengthen defence and security ties among ASEAN members and India.

HC grants 6-month medical bail to rape convict Asaram

JODHPUR, PTI: The Rajasthan High Court has granted six months' bail to self-styled godman Asaram Bapu, who has been serving life sentence for raping a minor, on medical grounds.

Earlier, the 84-year-old had been granted interim bail thrice.

A bench of Acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma and Justice Sangeeta Sharma passed the order while hearing his plea for suspension of the sentence and a regular bail.

Asaram's counsel Devdutt Kamat argued that he has been suffering from prolonged illness and that proper treatment is not possible in jail. Therefore, granting him bail without custody would help facilitate his medical treatment.

On the other hand, Additional Advocate General (AAG) Deepak Choudhary and the counsel for the survivor, PC Solanki, opposed the plea.

After hearing arguments from both sides, the division bench granted bail to Asaram for six months.

Asaram has been serving life sentence since April 2018. After nearly 12 years in prison, he was granted interim bail on medical grounds for the first time on January 7, 2025, which was then extended in July and August.

Green nod waived for underground coal gasification

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Ministry of Coal on Wednesday said the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has agreed to do away with the green clearance for pilot projects for underground coal gasification.

"It is part of the framework and the MoEFCC has kind of agreed to not have an EC (environment clearance) for the pilot phase only," Coal Secretary Vikram Dev Dutt told reporters on the sidelines of the launch of the 14th round of commercial coal mine auctions.

The development assumes significance as the government targets to gasify 100 million tonnes of coal by 2030.

He further said of the 41 coal blocks that are being put out for sale, 21 are suitable for UCG because generally they are deep seated and are uneconomical to extract.

UCG (Underground Coal Gasification) gasifies deep, unmineable coal seams in-situ using oxidants such as air, oxygen or steam. Hydrogen from UCG can power clean fuel and hydrogen economy initiatives, while syngas and value-added products can be generated through partial oxidation of carbon monoxide and hydrogen.

The secretary further said the coal ministry is moving with pace with regard to the coal trading exchange. The ministry also launched two digital platforms, i.e., the CLAMP and Koyla Shakti portals, during the event.

The Coal Land Acquisition, Management and Payment Portal is a unified digital platform developed to streamline and digitise processes related to land acquisition, compensation, and rehabilitation & resettlement in the coal sector.

The Koyla Shakti Dashboard is a digital platform designed to revolutionise the coal sector through enhanced transparency, efficiency, and real-time coordination.

Ayodhya Ram Temple receives over Rs 3,000 crore; donors to be felicitated

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

More than Rs 3,000 crore has been received as donations for the construction of the Ram Temple so far, according to the Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, which was overseeing the construction.

The chairman of the trust, Nripendra Mishra, said in Ayodhya on Wednesday that the donors would be felicitated during the forthcoming "dhwajarohan" ceremony at the Ram Temple on November 25.

6,000 invites

Mishra said that more than 6,000 people were being sent invites to attend the ceremony, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to be the chief guest.

"A programme will be organised in the Ram Temple complex after November 25 in which the donors will be given mementoes," he said, adding that the companies, suppliers, and workers who contributed in any way to the Ram Temple's construction would also be felicitated.

Mishra said that so far, Rs 1,500 crore had been spent on the Ram Temple's construction, and this figure was likely to reach Rs 1,800 crore by the time the work was complete.

He said the trust was hopeful that the Ram Temple would be complete in all respects by the end of next year.

Modi is likely to hoist the "Ram Dhwaja" (flag) on the spire of the newly-constructed temple on November 25.

The flag is triangular in shape and of saffron colour. It is 11 feet wide and 21 feet long. It carries symbols of the "Suryavansh" — the clan to which Lord Rama belonged — and the "Treta Yuga".

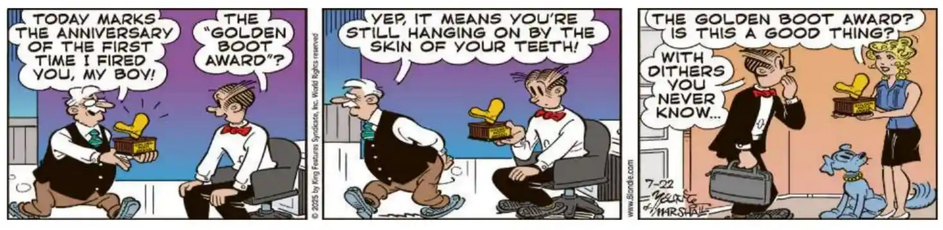
Flags are also expected to be hoisted on the seven other temples within the Ram Temple complex on this occasion.

The event will start on November 21 and continue till November 25. A series of vedic rituals will be performed during the five-day-long ceremony.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie


TODAY MARKS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST TIME I FIRED YOU, MY BOY!
THE "GOLDEN BOOT AWARD"?
YEP, IT MEANS YOU'RE STILL HANGING ON BY THE SKIN OF YOUR TEETH!
THE GOLDEN BOOT AWARD? IS THIS A GOOD THING?
WITH DITHERS YOU NEVER KNOW...

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

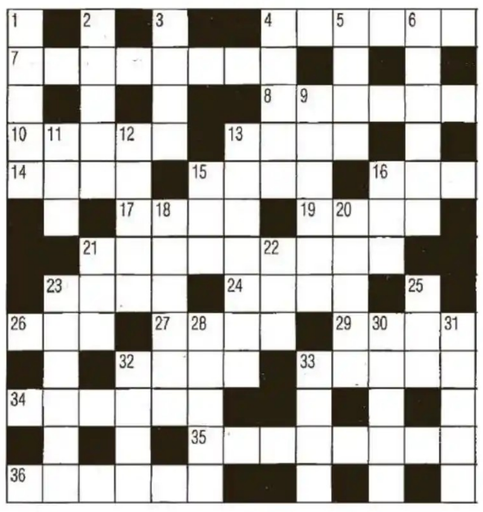
I TOOK SOME INTIMATE PHOTOS OF BEETLE ON OUR DATE LAST NIGHT
CAN I SEE?
THREE DOTS?
THAT'S A CLOSE-UP OF HIS FRECKLES
GREG+ MORT WALKER

Peanuts

Marvin

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOUR SISTER-IN-LAW JANET IS OUR NEW BOSS!
I'M NOT SURPRISED. SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN BOSSY
NOW SHE'S JUST TURNED PROFESSIONAL

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12277



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 Take the club with tape wound round it (6)
7 That well-read old Rugby boy (3,5)
8 Flighty in a fanciful way, but they have saintly manners (6)
10 Everybody at a loose end on the 4th of July can go bowling here (5)
13 Such a frost means the house needs a bit of warmth (4)
14 On some days, volunteers information (4)
15 You can eat a third of one in a bus (4)
16 He's suspended (3)
17 They possibly pass as healthy places (4)
19 The air with which men get out of line (4)
21 One helping to make a bed for the top directors? (9)
23 Only a little drink, but Joe left light-headed (4)
24 Cannabis would be too much for her (4)
26 Cool guy on the short list? (3)
27 He composed "Rule Britannia" from clear necessity (4)
29 She needs two articles (4)
32 Claimed falsely to have tucked a note inside the cover (4)
33 The poet dines only at the weekend (5)
34 There's £1 in the pot for the bag (6)
35 A girl's secret loves simply vanish (8)
36 A game anyone may be for (6)

DOWN
1 It's played with subtle art in extremes of sound (5)
2 Was maybe apt to be sniffed at (5)
3 Be devout, I beseech you! (4)
4 A girl embraces, thus, an old sailor (5)
5 The tea lady? (4)
6 Though good, he takes an age getting a house (6)
9 Brown's out to upset Sam, the navigator (6)
11 It's legal to crack some walnuts (3)
12 Renew the lease for the stand (5)
13 He'll hand out a sub, perhaps (7)
15 A good rebuttal (3)
16 A restful place to be at the back of beyond (3)
18 Where a dancer may use an alias, on the quiet? (6)
20 Having only one speed can make you furious! (5)
21 It's striking when we cover it in white (3)
22 Anybody can be exemplary! (3)
23 A sheltered place to get out and walk (6)
25 To gamble is best without a bit of risk! (3)
28 Oliver's plants? (5)
30 A greeting for everyone in the house (5)
31 Cricket remains of burning interest to some (5)
32 One with a big share in a zoo? (4)
33 Skis breaking at a touch! (4)

ACROSS
4 Riffraff (6)
7 Golden horse (8)
8 Morning meal (6)
10 One who perseveres (5)
13 Boor (4)
14 Indian dress (4)
15 Strikes (4)
16 Vitality (3)
17 Snatch (4)
19 Quarrel (4)
21 Lizard (9)
23 Thick end (4)
24 Routine (4)
26 Groove (3)
27 Hotness (4)
29 Nearly all (4)
32 Water source (4)
33 Awry (5)
34 Expedition (6)
35 Turtle (8)
36 Stinging plant (6)

DOWN
1 Pimples (5)
2 Panache (5)
3 Muslim ruler (4)
4 Automaton (5)
5 Boxing match (4)
6 Small ornamental case (6)
9 Type of apple (6)
11 Knock (3)
12 Number (5)
13 Ungrudging (7)
15 Bad actor (3)
16 Cooking vessel (3)
18 Somewhat (6)
20 Odes (5)
21 Incision (3)
22 Auction item (3)
23 Fuel gas (6)
25 Employ (3)
28 Chosen few (5)
30 African mammal (5)
31 Strong string (5)
32 Desire (4)
33 Land measure (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12276

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Coup-le 7, Yearling 8, Time 10, Sham-U.S. 11, Pol-it-e 14, Leg 16, Pi-L-ed 17, De-ed 19, Fi-Ned 21, Never 22, Cow-Ed 23, Mood 26, Pi-lot 28, Nap 29, Un-us-ed 30, Hogt-i.e. 31, O-WNS 32, Cock-a-too 33, Tim-Ely.
DOWN: 1, C-eased 2, Pri-m-ed 3, E-yes 4, Tro-O-per 5, Ci-vil 6, O.g.led 8, Tale 9, Mug 12, Lid 13, T-empo 15, Dives 18, Elfi-n 19, Few (phew) 20, NE-D 21, No-tepad 22, C-OS 23, M-agn-um 24, Opts 25, D-rear-y 26, Punch 27, Lunch 28, No-W 30, H-O-ot.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Cancel 7, Abstruse 8, Cans 10, Violet 11, Images 14, Wee 16, Asset 17, Salt 19, Beech 21, Sarah 22, Water 23, Bled 26, Bacon 28, Foe 29, Allege 30, Forage 31, Arid 32, Hospital 33, Legacy.
DOWN: 1, Canvas 2, Chalet 3, Last 4, Stomach 5, Bungs 6, Yeast 8, Cowl 9, Nee 12, Ash 13, Eerie 15, Beret 18, Appal 19, Bat 20, Ear 21, Sangria 22, Woe 23, Boring 24, Lead 25, Dreamy 26, Bathe 27, Close 28, For 30, Fall.

◆SU-DO-KU-6738◆

				6			8	7
			1				9	
		8						2
4	5	1	6					3
		2				8		
8					2	6	4	5
9						7		
	7				3			
2	4			5				

hard

SOLUTION TO 6737

9	5	2	8	6	1	4	3	7
3	7	6	4	5	2	8	9	1
4	8	1	9	7	3	6	5	2
8	3	4	2	1	5	9	7	6
5	6	9	3	4	7	2	1	8
2	1	7	6	9	8	5	4	3
1	9	8	7	2	4	3	6	5
6	2	5	1	3	9	7	8	4
7	4	3	5	8	6	1	2	9

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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K5 M3 U1 I1 J8 O1 I1 — 4th Letter Triple — RACK 1
I1 L1 Y4 A1 T1 X8 I1 — Double Word Score — RACK 2
H4 S1 C3 C3 P3 E1 E1 — RACK 3
C3 O1 E1 O1 H4 M3 D2 — Triple Word Score — RACK 4

PAR SCORE 115-125
by JUDD
FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

F4 O1 R1 K5 S1
H4 O1 V4 E1 S1
P3 L1 U1 N1 G2 E1 R1
A1 S1 S1 A1 U1 L1 T1

RACK 1 = 12
RACK 2 = 15
RACK 3 = 60
RACK 4 = 71
JUDD'S TOTAL = 158

PAR SCORE 100-110

HITORI-3192

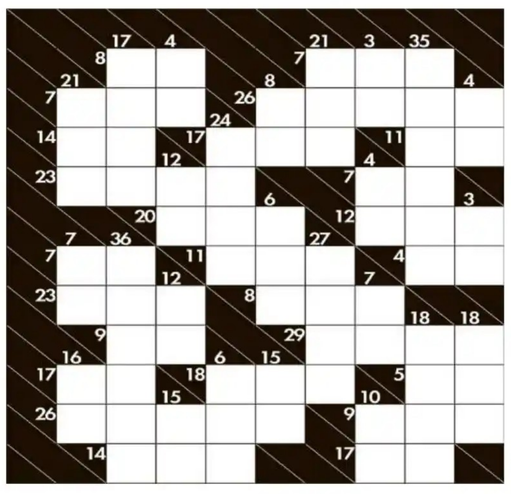
8	4	6	1	5	6	3	6
4	7	6	4	6	5	8	6
1	3	5	8	2	4	6	8
5	6	2	3	6	7	6	7
3	8	6	5	1	6	7	2
6	2	3	7	6	4	4	6
2	6	1	6	7	8	5	5
6	6	8	2	6	1	5	7

SOLUTION TO 3191

7	1	8	2	3	4	■	5
■	4	■	5	■	2	3	6
8	5	7	4	6	■	1	2
■	3	4	■	5	6	■	8
3	2	6	1	■	5	4	■
2	7	■	6	4	■	8	3
1	■	5	8	■	3	7	■
■	6	2	3	8	■	5	1

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3192



SOLUTION TO 3191

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3720

■		1			8			7
	■	9					■	1
		■				■		
2			7	9	■		1	5
9	8			3	6			
			■		■			
		■		7		■	6	2
	■	4	6				■	
■					1		7	■

SOLUTION TO 3719

1	4	6	9	3	2	5	7	8
9	8	5	7	4	1	3	2	6
3	2	7	5	8	6	9	1	4
4	5	8	2	9	3	7	6	1
6	3	1	8	5	7	2	4	9
2	7	9	1	6	4	8	3	5
5	1	4	3	7	9	6	8	2
8	6	3	4	2	5	1	9	7
7	9	2	6	1	8	4	5	3

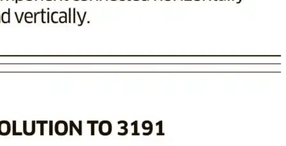
To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FSTIH
UBDTO
SUUJTN
ZIFLZE



Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play.Jumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FORTY CYNIC DEFIED THRASH
Answer: After the sergeant told him to stop slouching, the private was going to — STAND CORRECTED

SC calls out chronic delay in framing charges, demands urgent fix

Court seeks nationwide guidelines, uniform judicial practices

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday expressed displeasure over prolonged delays in framing charges, saying that in many cases it takes three to four years just to draft issues.

The court stressed that once a chargesheet is filed, charges must be framed without delay.

Within 60 days

A bench comprising Justices Aravind Kumar and NV Anjaria observed that such delays are widespread across the country, and under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), charges must be framed within 60 days of the first hearing.

The bench favoured uniform judicial practices and proposed issuing pan-India guidelines to ensure timely framing of charges, noting that delays are a major cause of stagnation in criminal proceedings.

SUPREME COURT

"We have noticed, time and again, the charges are not being framed even months and years after the filing of the chargesheet. This is one of the primary reasons for the trial getting delayed.

WHEN JUSTICE WAITS

- Court notes 3-4 year lags in many cases
- Stresses prompt action once a chargesheet is filed
- BNSS mandates charges be framed within 60 days of first hearing
- Bench proposes pan-India guidelines

It observed that nationwide directions are needed to enforce adherence to the statutory mandate. The court appointed senior advocate Siddharth Luthra as amicus curiae in the matter, along with the counsel for the Bihar government.

The bench also sought the assistance of the Attorney General and Solicitor General as it considered issuing nationwide directions to address systemic delays.

The court was hearing a criminal matter in which the petitioner's counsel raised concerns over the non-framing of charges, despite the accused being in custody for two years.

The bench questioned why delays persist consistently across both civil and criminal proceedings.

"Across the country, we notice that charges are not being framed even after three or four years. Section 251(b) mandates framing of charges within 60 days of the first hearing. In one case where we issued notice, there are three accused — chargesheet filed in 2023, but charges still not framed in 2025. All the accused remain in custody."

The court was informed that the BNSS prescribes a fixed timeline for framing charges. "We need clear guidance for all pending matters," the bench said.

Section 251(b) states that in cases exclusively triable by a court of sessions, charges must be framed within 60 days of the first hearing.

A bail application was filed by Aman Kumar, who has been in jail since August 2024 as an undertrial in a case of robbery and attempt to murder. The police filed the chargesheet in September 2024.

The petitioner claimed he was falsely implicated and that the police relied on inadmissible statements to frame the case against him.

Book Congress workers singing B'desh anthem: Sarma to police

GUWAHATI, DHNS: The BJP-led government in Assam on Wednesday asked the police to register a case against Congress workers in Shribhumi, a Bengali-dominated district in the Barak Valley, for allegedly reciting Bangladesh's national anthem during an event.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma told reporters that he had asked the director general of police (DGP) to register a case under sections pertaining to national security as the act was unacceptable.

"I have asked the police to take strict action as per the provisions in law," he said.

BJP leaders reacted sharply after a video showing the "singing" of Bangladesh's national anthem "Amar Sonar Bangla" at an event of the Congress Seva Dal in Shribhumi district on Tuesday was shared on social media.

Congress leaders in Shribhumi said only two lines of Bangladesh's national anthem were sung by a leader "as a mark of respect" to Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, who wrote the national anthems of both India and Bangladesh. Shribhumi shares a border with Bangladesh.

500 Indians from Myanmar scam hub stranded in Thailand

NEW DELHI, PTI: Nearly 500 Indian nationals crossed into Thailand following a crackdown on some notorious scam centres in Myanmar and India is working with Thai authorities to fly them home after completing the legal process, people familiar with the matter said on Wednesday.

It is learnt that India is considering sending an aircraft to Thailand to repatriate the Indians, most of whom were victims of the scam centres in Myanmar's KK Park complex.

Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said nearly 500 Indians are at Mae Sot in western Thailand. "The Indian government will send a plane to take them back directly," he said.

The Ministry of External Affairs said the Indian embassy in Bangkok is working closely with the Thai authorities on the issue. "We are aware of Indian nationals who have been detained by Thai authorities," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"They had crossed into Thailand from Myanmar over the past few days. Our Mission in Thailand is working closely with Thai authorities to verify their nationality and to repatriate them, after necessary legal formalities are completed in Thailand," he added.

The Indian nationals are among over 1,500 people from over 28 countries who have fled Myanmar following the crackdown on the scam centres, according to reports.

The scam centres in Myanmar are involved in transnational cyber scams. According to a UN report, hundreds of trafficked individuals of various nationalities were forced to carry out fraud in the centres.

The underground operations are often linked to criminal networks that recruit victims globally, putting them to work in facilities principally in Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, the Philippines and Malaysia, the report said in May.

India ready to be global 'lighthouse': PM Modi

Says maritime initiatives key to broader vision

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

In a significant development in maritime diplomacy amid the evolving global economic and security scenario, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday that India was ready to play the role of a steady lighthouse for the world.

"India's vibrant democracy and reliability are its defining strength... When the global seas are rough, the world looks for a steady lighthouse. India is well poised to play that role with strength and stability," he said at the five-day India Maritime Week, which carries the theme "Uniting Oceans, One Maritime Vision".

Amid global tensions, trade disruptions, and shifting supply chains, Modi stated that India stood as a symbol of strategic autonomy, peace, and inclusive growth. He emphasised that India's maritime and trade initiatives are integral to this broader vision.

Citing the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor as an example, he noted that it would redefine trade routes and promote clean energy and smart logistics.

He also said: "India is making remarkable strides in the shipping industry, particularly in the development of human resources. Over the past decade, the number of Indian seafarers has grown significantly, increasing from 1.25 lakh to over 3 lakh. Today, India ranks among the top three countries in the world in terms of the total number of seafarers."

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

"When the global seas are rough, the world looks for a steady lighthouse. India can play the role of such a lighthouse with a lot of strength.

About the BJP-led NDA dispensation's initiatives, he said over 150 initiatives have been launched under the Maritime India Vision, resulting in significant improvements across the maritime sector.

"Additionally, cruise tourism has gained substantial momentum. Inland waterways have experienced remarkable growth, with cargo movement increasing by more than 700%. The number of operational waterways has expanded from just three to an impressive 32. Furthermore, the net annual surplus of our ports has seen a ninefold increase over the past decade," said the PM.

"Outdated colonial-era shipping laws have been replaced with modern, forward-looking legislation tailored for the 21st century. These new laws strengthen the role of State Maritime Boards, prioritise safety and sustainability, and promote the integration of digital technologies into port management," he said.

President Murmu flies in Rafale jet, calls it 'unforgettable experience'

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday made history as she became the first Supreme Commander to have flown in two different IAF fighter aircraft when she took a sortie in a Rafale jet at Ambala Air Force station and described the experience as 'unforgettable'.

On touchdown, the President also posed for a picture with the Indian Air Force's first woman Rafale pilot Wing Commander Shivangi Singh, putting to rest a Pakistani propaganda of capturing her during Operation Sindoor.

Donning a G-suit and aviator glasses, she flew for about 30 minutes, covering a distance of 200 km. The aircraft reached a height of about 15,000 feet above sea level and a speed of approximately 700 km per hour, said an official statement.

President Droupadi Murmu poses with Indian Air Force pilot Shivangi Singh, whom Pak had claimed to captured during 'Operation Sindoor', at Air Force Station in Ambala. PTI

HIGH-FLYER

- President Droupadi Murmu made history as she became the first President of India to fly in two different fighter aircraft of the IAF
- The sortie lasted for approximately 30 minutes, covering about 200 km. The aircraft reached a height of about 15,000 feet above sea level
- Air Chief Marshal A P Singh also flew a sortie in a separate aircraft from the same air base.

The aircraft was flown by Group Captain Amit Gehani, Commanding Officer of the 17 Squadron, one of the two IAF units flying the French-origin jets. Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A P Singh also flew in a separate aircraft.

Later while signing the visitor's book, Murmu wrote, "The sortie on Rafale is an unforgettable experience for me. This first flight on the potent Rafale aircraft has instilled in me a renewed sense of pride in the nation's defence capabilities."

This was the second fighter jet sortie for President Murmu after her April 2023 flight in a Su-30MKI aircraft from Tezpur Air Force station.

She followed the footsteps of former Presidents A P J Abdul Kalam and Pratibha Patil, who had undertaken sorties in Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft at Pune in 2006 and 2009, respectively.

DMK urges poll body to postpone Tamil Nadu SIR

CHENNAI, DHNS: Reiterating its opposition to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Tamil Nadu's ruling party, the DMK, on Wednesday demanded that the exercise be postponed due to the peak northeast monsoon season and festival holidays.

In a representation to the Tamil Nadu chief electoral officer, the DMK, represented by R S Bharathi and N R Elango, said there are several practical difficulties for the people participating in the exercise.

Since the enumeration period was fixed between November 4 and December 4, the DMK noted that this was the peak period for the northeast monsoons.

The period between December 9 and January 31, 2026 — festival season and monsoon time — covers most of the time for filing claims and objections, it said.

Kerala govt calls all-party meeting on Nov 5 to discuss SIR

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The Kerala government will hold an all-party meeting on November 5 to discuss the Election Commission's decision to conduct a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state from November 4.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said even as the political parties and the election officials apprised the EC of the practical difficulties in conducting the SIR now, as the local body elections were due, the poll panel ignored the state's concern. This has to be strongly resisted.

Meanwhile, Kerala chief electoral officer Rathan U Kelkar, who held a meeting with representatives of political parties on Wednesday, tried to allay the concerns by stating that more officials would be deployed for SIR so that the local body elections, which are expected to be announced soon, would not be affected.

POLL ROLL REVISION

- The chief electoral officer said a preliminary comparison of the voters list of 2002 and the current list found around 68% matching
- The 2002 electoral roll is being considered as the base voters list for SIR
- 6,300 additional booth-level officers to be appointed for the exercise

However, leaders of the CPM and Congress maintained that a fair conduct of the local body elections and the SIR would be affected if both the processes clashed, as the same set of officials would be involved in both exercises. Hence, they reiterated the demand that the SIR in Kerala be postponed.

CPM leader M V Jayarajan and Kerala PCC president Sunny Joseph alleged that there were ulterior motives in initiating SIR in more states even as the matter was pending before the court. It was part of the BJP's agenda of introducing the National Register of Citizens and Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Jayarajan said the CPM would explore legal options in this regard.

Terming the initiative as an "affront to democracy", Wayanada MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said, "Given how they (EC) have done it in Bihar, we have fought against it in Parliament and outside it. We will continue to fight against it everywhere."

BJP state general secretary S Suresh said it was surprising that the Congress and CPM were opposing efforts to bring out a clean electoral roll, which is essential as the state would be going to assembly polls next year. He also urged the election commission to ensure that no eligible voters were eliminated from the list.

Kerala puts PM SHRI on hold, sets up panel to review scheme

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: The rift within Kerala's ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) appears to have died down for now, with the CPM-led government deciding to freeze the decision to implement the PM SHRI (Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India) scheme in the state after objections raised by the CPI.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan told reporters that a seven-member cabinet sub-committee would review the scheme, and based on the committee's report, a decision would be taken.

A letter would be sent to the Ministry of Education informing that further steps on PM SHRI would be taken only after the review by the sub-committee.

With the fresh developments becoming a major embarrassment to the CPM, which holds the education portfolio, the chief minister tried to avoid questions in this regard by stating that "there was no need to dig further on the matter as it is being reviewed."

Vijayan, however, added that the CPM was still of the view that the National Education Policy was an attempt to impose the RSS agenda on the education sector.

Even as reports emerged that the four ministers of the CPI might skip the cabinet meeting on Wednesday, hectic discussions were held during the day to resolve the standoff.

Wangchuk's detention arbitrary, says wife; SC hearing on Nov 24

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court was informed on Wednesday that the detention of activist Sonam Wangchuk was not based on genuine concerns for public order or security, and that it suffered from gross illegality and arbitrariness.

Gitanjali J Angmo, the wife of the activist, claimed that the detention order relied upon stale, irrelevant, and extraneous FIRs.

"Out of the five FIRs relied upon, three pertained to the year 2024, bearing no proximate, live, or rational nexus to the detention of Wangchuk in September 2025. Moreover, three FIRs were registered against 'unknown persons' and do not name Wangchuk," her fresh application stated.

Her plea contended that there was no clear, live, proximate, or intelligible connection between the FIRs and Wangchuk's preventive detention under the National Security Act (NSA), 1980.

On Wednesday, a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria allowed Angmo to amend her petition within a week. The court scheduled the matter for further hearing on November 24.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Angmo, submitted that he had filed the amended application, adding more grounds challenging the detention order.

Wangchuk is currently lodged in Jodhpur Central Jail in Rajasthan.

Angmo stated that the respondents, including the Centre, had violated safeguards under Section 11(1) of the NSA.

"Wangchuk has not been afforded an effective opportunity to make a representation before the Advisory Board, thereby rendering the statutory safeguard illusory. Section 11(1) of the NSA necessarily contemplates that the detenu must not only be informed of his right of representation but must be placed in a fair position to exercise that right effectively, with access to all material relied upon by the detaining authority," her plea said.

The activist was arrested on September 26 under the NSA following violent protests in Ladakh.

3 dead as Cyclone Montha batters Andhra, Telangana

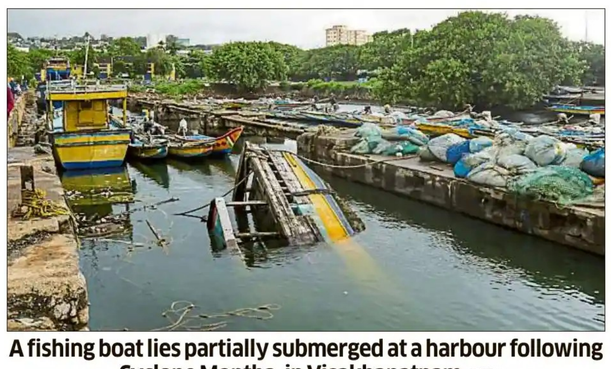
S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Three people were killed in Andhra Pradesh as severe cyclonic storm Montha crossed the Andhra Pradesh coast near Narasapuram in the early hours of Wednesday, leaving large parts of the state battered, while Telangana too suffered significant impact.

Andhra Pradesh'scoastal districts bore the brunt of Montha's fury, with torrential rain lashing regions from Visakhapatnam to Tirupati. Heavy rain and strong winds uprooted hundreds of trees and electricity poles across the East Godavari, Krishna, and Visakhapatnam districts, leading to widespread power outages, particularly in East Godavari.

Telangana experienced continuous downpours from Tuesday night.

Preliminary reports indicated that crops such as paddy, cotton, maize, and green gram, along with horticultural produce, have suffered extensive damage over nearly 4.4 lakh acres across AP.



A fishing boat lies partially submerged at a harbour following Cyclone Montha, in Visakhapatnam. PTI

In the Konaseema region, powerful winds wreaked havoc, destroying banana and paddy fields.

As Montha made landfall near Narsapuram, the intensity of the winds and the sea's turbulence increased, with waves crashing violently along the coast. Further north, Ichchapuram in Srikakulam district was submerged as the Bahuda river rose following the opening of the Bhagalati Dam gates in Odisha.

AP Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu conducted an aerial survey over the cyclone-affected areas in the Bapatla, Palnadu, Krishna, Konaseema, and Eluru districts.

The government ordered the free distribution of daily essentials to people in cyclone-affected areas. Each affected family was expected to receive 50 kg of rice, 1 kg of lentils, 1 litre of cooking oil, 1 kg of onions, 1 kg of potatoes and 1 kg of sugar.

In Telangana, heavy rain flooded several low-lying areas. Train services were hit as floodwaters inundated railway tracks at some places. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy instructed the administration to remain on high alert.

ED alleges cash-for-jobs in Tamil Nadu municipal dept; DMK govt denies charges

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

In fresh trouble for the ruling DMK, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has alleged a cash-for-jobs scam involving at least 150 of the 2,538 posts in the Municipal Administration and Water Supply (MAWS) department, with bribes between Rs 25 lakh and Rs 35 lakh per post.

The Central agency, in a detailed dossier to the Tamil Nadu Police, sought a detailed probe into the alleged scam.

However, MAWS Minister K N Nehru outright rejected the allegations, saying every procedure laid out in the law, including written examination, was followed before selecting 2,538 people for various posts in the department. He also alleged that the letter from ED to the Director General of Police is yet another attempt to "defame" the DMK's Dravidian Model government after failing in its efforts by reviving an old case related to a bank fraud.

The agency said that the details of the "scam" tumbled out from documents recovered from premises connected to Nehru during raids in April 2025, which indicated a "deep-rooted" and "systemic corruption network" within the department.

This is the second state department in which the ED has alleged a massive scam, after the state-owned liquor retailer Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation. The probe in the latter has been stayed by the Supreme Court.

Nehru said the government issued a notification in February 2024 to fill 2,569 posts in the MAWS department. "An exclusive website was launched for the purpose, and the department received over 2 lakh applications from eligible candidates. Exams were conducted in 591 centres in 38 districts, and the results were published on September 20, 2024. Since the exams were conducted in a transparent manner, there were no objections to the results."

Woman drowns, 8 people missing after boat capsizes in UP

BAHRAICH (UP), PTI: A 60-year-old woman drowned and eight people, including five children, went missing on Wednesday after a boat capsized in the Kaudiyala river near Bharathapur village in a densely forested area of this district, officials said.

The incident occurred around 6 pm when 22 people from Khairatiya village of neighbouring Lakhimpur district were travelling by boat to Bharathapur, they said, adding efforts are on to trace the missing persons.

Locals said the boat overturned in the river because the flow of the water was strong.

According to an official statement issued in Lucknow, of 22 people, 13 were saved while one Ramajiya (60) drowned and her body was later recovered.

Eight people are still missing and attempts are on to trace them, the statement said.

India eyes energy grid link with Singapore

SINGAPORE, PTI: India is exploring opportunities to accelerate the regional energy transition while ensuring energy security across Southeast Asia, starting with Singapore, where several alternative energy projects are already underway, a senior Indian official said here.

Ghanshyam Prasad, Chairman of the Central Electricity Authority—a statutory body under the Ministry of Power — stated that the need for interconnection has been emphasised to optimise the use of regional renewable resources, noting that a significant opportunity lies ahead if the South Asia and Southeast Asia grids are interconnected.

"One of the options is to have a direct interconnection between India and Singapore. This aligns with the 'One Sun One World One Grid' principles, which originated from India. Through Singapore, the whole of the Southeast Asian region will benefit," Prasad said on the sidelines of an international energy conference in Singapore.

Prasad said India could export renewable power — generated from solar, wind, hydro, and pumped storage projects — to Singapore and the wider region. "To start with, the link could have a capacity of about 2,000 MW," he noted.

Myanmar rebels sign ceasefire with military

BANGKOK, AP/PTI: A major ethnic rebel group in Myanmar announced on Wednesday that it had signed a ceasefire with the military following China-mediated talks, easing months of intense fighting in the country's northeast near the Chinese border.

The ceasefire with the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) marks a significant victory for Myanmar's military government, which has regained territories ahead of elections scheduled to begin on December 28. Critics view the polls, which exclude the main opposition parties, as an attempt to legitimise and maintain the military's rule.

The ceasefire was signed during talks mediated by China on Monday and Tuesday in Kunming, a Chinese provincial capital about 400 km from the border with Myanmar, the TNLA said in a statement on Wednesday on the Telegram messaging platform.

Beijing has major geopolitical and economic interests in Myanmar and is deeply concerned about instability along its borders. China is also the most important foreign ally of Myanmar's military, which seized power after ousting the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021. The takeover led to nationwide peaceful protests that later escalated into civil war.

Myanmar's military government did not immediately comment on the ceasefire.

US, South Korea reach agreement on trade deal

Seoul secures investment relief as Trump, Lee finalise agreement

GYEONGJU, NYT NEWS SERVICE

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung presents US President Donald Trump with a replica of a crown worn by ancient kings of Silla during a ceremony in Gyeongju on Wednesday. AFP

South Korea said it had reached an agreement on the details of a long-awaited trade deal with the United States during President Donald Trump's visit to the country, securing concessions on how much cash it would need to invest in the United States.

Kim Yong-beom, President Lee Jae Myung's chief of staff, announced the agreement on Wednesday after Trump and the South Korean leader met on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit. It was the latest stop on Trump's week-long trip to Asia, expected to conclude on Thursday with a highly anticipated meeting with Xi Jinping, China's top leader.

The US agreement with South Korea followed months of back-and-forth negotiations. Going into Trump's visit, expectations were low for a finalised deal. South Korea had agreed to a framework in July, but the two sides had struggled to find common ground on Trump's demand that South Korea commit to investing $350 billion in the US.

Initially, there was confusion on Wednesday evening over whether the sides had come to an agreement. Before a dinner with other leaders at the summit in Gyeongju, a historic city in South Korea's southeast, Trump said the US had reached a deal. Later, he appeared to temper those comments, saying it had "nearly finalised" a deal.

Kim said that "the prospects for an agreement were not bright" but that the two sides had made "rapid progress today." He did not elaborate.

Earlier in the day, officials flattered Trump during public events. Lee presented him with a medal symbolising the nation's highest honour, followed by a replica of a golden crown excavated from one of the ancient royal tombs in Gyeongju, the seat of a long-lost kingdom. "I'd like to wear it right now," Trump quipped.

Until Wednesday, talks had been stalled largely over the investment provision. The United States wanted a cash investment, but South Korea expressed concern that committing such a large sum could destabilise its currency.

According to Kim, the United States will now lower import tariffs on South Korean goods to 15 per cent from the 25 per cent rate that took effect in August. In addition, he said the United States agreed to accept cash investments of up to $20 billion a year and set aside another $150 billion for investment in its shipbuilding operations.

The two nations agreed that South Korea would invest in projects that were "commercially reasonable," Kim said.

THE FINE PRINT

- Tariffs will be reduced from 25% to 15%
- South Korea to invest $350 billion in the US economy, including $200 billion in cash and $150 billion in shipbuilding

Russia tests nuclear-powered drone with unlimited range

MOSCOW, PTI: President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday said Russia has successfully tested a nuclear-powered submersible drone with unlimited range.

During a televised meeting with servicemen while visiting a military hospital, Putin said the "nuclear-powered" automatic unmanned submersible vehicle Poseidon, which is "much more powerful" than Russia's most advanced prospective Sarmat ballistic missile, was successfully tested on Tuesday.

He said the Poseidon drone was launched from a mother submarine and is equipped with a nuclear power plant 100 times smaller than the reactor of a strategic submarine. Putin also said that the Sarmat missile would soon enter combat duty. "There is no other platform like the Sarmat in the world. We don't have one on duty yet. But it will go operational soon," he said.

Referring to last week's successful test of the unique nuclear-powered Burevestnik cruise missile with unlimited range, Putin said its reactor is a thousand times smaller than that of a submarine and uses electronics developed for space technology.

On Sunday, during a televised meeting with the Chief of Defence Staff and senior military commanders, Putin had said that during recent nuclear force drills, the Burevestnik remained airborne for 15 hours and covered 14,000 km during successful trials.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

A man sits on part of the roof of his house, damaged by Hurricane Melissa, in Santiago, Cuba, on Wednesday. Melissa left 25 dead in Haiti while causing widespread damage in Jamaica and Cuba. AFP

Florida guv orders ending H-1B visa hires in state universities

▸ In a move aimed at cracking down on H-1B visa abuse in higher education, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has ordered institutions in the state to hire Americans for university jobs and end the practice of importing foreign workers, PTI reports from New York.

"Universities across the country are importing foreign workers on H-1B visas instead of hiring Americans who are qualified and available to do the job," DeSantis said on Wednesday. "We will not tolerate H-1B abuse in Florida institutions. That's why I have directed the Florida Board of Governors to end this practice," he said.

He added that Florida leads the nation in higher education and that thousands of highly qualified Americans graduate every year. "If any universities are truly struggling to find US citizens to fill their job openings, they ought to evaluate their academic programmes to determine why they cannot produce graduates who can be hired for these positions," he said. A statement issued by the Governor's Office said that Florida is requiring institutions to prioritise Americans and ensure taxpayer-funded schools serve the American workforce rather than being used to import cheap foreign labour.

Israeli minister to visit India

▸ Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar will visit India next week to meet with the country's top leadership and discuss bilateral initiatives and regional developments, PTI reports from Jerusalem.

"Sa'ar will be on a two-day visit to New Delhi, November 4 and 5, and will be meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar, among others," a source in Israel told PTI.

Despite the turmoil in the region, there have been several high-profile visits from Israel to India over the past two years, with recent ones including those of Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, Minister of Economy Nir Barkat, Agriculture Minister Avi Dichter, and Tourism Minister Haim Katz.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz meets a humanoid robot designed for the care sector at the launch of the high-tech show in Berlin on Wednesday. AFP

Indian-origin bizman shot dead

▸ A 68-year-old Indian-origin businessman was shot dead outside his house in Canada's British Columbia province in a suspected "targeted incident", according to media reports and police, PTI reports from Ottawa.

Darshan Sahsi was killed on Monday in the province's Abbotsford city. Police responded to a report of a shooting on Ridgeview Drive, where they found Sahsi inside a vehicle, suffering from life-threatening injuries, Abbotsford Police said in a statement on Monday. He succumbed to his injuries despite the lifesaving medical efforts of first responders. While the statement did not identify Sahsi, the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) later named him as the victim.

Museum lets visitors smell history

▸ A new exhibition in Germany lets visitors explore history through smell, featuring 81 unique fragrances — from war and love to medieval Paris and religion — across 37 galleries. AP/PTI reports from Dusseldorf (Germany).

The show, "The Secret Power of Scents," which opens to the public on Wednesday at the Kunstpalast Museum in Dusseldorf, combines fragrance and art, taking visitors on a sensory journey through more than 1,000 years of cultural history. "This exhibition is an experiment — and an invitation for our audience to discover the history of scents with their noses," said Felix Kramer, the museum's director general. The exhibition runs until March 8.

132 dead in massive Brazil crackdown on drug gangs

Outrage in Rio as residents accuse police of 'massacre'

RIO DE JANEIRO (BRAZIL), AFP

A woman weeps next to lined up bodies on Sao Lucas Square of the Vila Cruzeiro favela at the Penha complex in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Wednesday. AFP

The Rio de Janeiro public defender's office on Wednesday said a total of 132 people had died in the bloodiest police raid against drug gangs in the Brazilian city's history, as grieving residents laid out dozens of bodies in the street.

"The most recent update is 132 dead," the Rio state public defender's office, which provides legal assistance to the poor, told AFP. There was no immediate corroboration of the figure from other sources.

Rio state Governor Claudio Castro had earlier put the death toll from Tuesday's violence at around 60, but warned that the real figure was likely higher as more bodies were being taken to a morgue, where the dead were still being counted.

Four police officers were killed during the operation, which involved 2,500 officers taking on Rio's most powerful criminal group, the Comando Vermelho or Red Command.

In the Penha Complex — one of two densely populated, working-class neighbourhoods targeted in northern Rio — residents wept over a line of at least 50 corpses early Wednesday.

A woman screamed as she hunched over the body of one of the victims, who were laid out in a line, covered in makeshift shrouds, some stained with blood. Two girls, their faces streaked with tears, gently caressed the face of a dead man wrapped in a sheet with a floral motif, and then hugged each other tightly.

"The state came to massacre, it wasn't a (police) operation. They came directly to kill, to take lives," one woman said.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is said to be "horrified" by the death toll. "The president is horrified by the number of fatal incidents and was surprised that an operation of this scale was set up without the knowledge of the federal government," Justice Minister Ricardo Lewandowski said.

'Executions'

Angry residents accused the police of summary killings. "There are people who have been executed, many of them shot in the back of the head, shot in the back. This cannot be considered public safety," said Raul Santiago, a 36-year-old resident and activist.

Nvidia becomes first $5 trillion company

NEW YORK, AFP

Artificial intelligence chip juggernaut Nvidia became the world's first $5 trillion company on Wednesday, as investors remain confident that artificial intelligence will deliver a new wave of innovation and growth.

The California-based tech giant saw its share price rise by 4.91 per cent to $210.90 at the opening of trading on Wall Street, pushing Nvidia's market capitalisation past the never-before-seen threshold.

By comparison, the valuation is higher than the GDP of France or Germany and exceeds the combined worth of Tesla, Meta (Facebook), and Netflix.

Microsoft and Apple, the two other largest global market capitalisations, each hover just above $4 trillion in valuation.

The surge in Nvidia's share price follows continued strong sales, a series of new deals — including a partnership with Europe's Nokia announced on Tuesday — and growing expectations that the company may soon regain access to China.

The company is "largely ahead of any competitor who finds it hard to catch up in the world that Nvidia lives in," said Art Hogan of B. Riley Wealth Management.

"While it's almost unfathomable to think about a company reaching this milestone, it comes from one with so many operational efficiencies that it seems to announce massive deals on a daily or weekly basis."

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang is expected in South Korea this week, where he will attend events on the sidelines of the APEC summit. US President Donald Trump is also scheduled to meet his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping there, with issues related to AI development expected to be discussed.

TECH BUBBLE

- Nvidia market value surged past $5 trillion after its share price hit $210.90, surpassing the combined worth of Tesla, Meta and Netflix.
- Its dominance in powering generative AI, along with record valuations for firms like OpenAI, has sparked comparisons to the 1990s tech bubble

Pakistan warns Taliban of 'obliteration' after failed talks

ISLAMABAD, PTI

A Taliban security personnel stands guard at a border crossing with Pakistan in Spin Boldak. AFP FILE

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Wednesday threatened to "obliterate" the Afghan Taliban and push them "back to the caves" in the event of any future terrorist attack in his country, as relations between the two neighbours plunged to a new low after peace talks failed.

Asif issued the warning on social media soon after the four-day peace talks in Istanbul failed to produce any result on Pakistan's main demand that the Taliban act against militants using Afghan soil to launch attacks in Pakistan.

Asif said that, at the request of "brotherly countries", Pakistan had engaged in talks to give peace a chance, but "venomous statements by certain Afghan officials clearly reflect the devious and splintered mindset of the Taliban regime". "Let me assure them that Pakistan does not need to employ even a fraction of its full arsenal to completely obliterate the Taliban regime and push them back to the caves for hiding. If they wish so, a repeat of the scenes of their rout at Tora Bora, with their tails between their legs, would surely be a spectacle for the people of the region," he said on X.

He said that warmongers within the Taliban regime, who have vested interests in continuing instability in the region, should know they have "probably misread Pakistan's resolve and courage". Asif warned that if the Taliban regime wanted to fight, "the world will, God willing, see that their threats are only performative circus".

"We have borne your treachery and mockery for too long, but no more. Any terrorist attack or suicide bombing inside Pakistan shall give you the bitter taste of such misadventures," he said.

Responding to the popular Afghan claim of defeating empires, Asif remarked, "As far as the narrative of the 'graveyard of empires' goes, Pakistan certainly doesn't claim to be an empire."

India rejects UN report linking Pahalgam to Myanmar refugees

UNITED NATIONS/NEW DELHI, PTI: India has strongly condemned what it called a "blinkered analysis" in a UN report on Myanmar's human rights situation, rejecting the claim that the Pahalgam terrorist attack affected displaced persons from Myanmar as having "no factual basis".

Delivering India's statement at the UN General Assembly's Third Committee, Lok Sabha MP Dilip Saikia expressed serious objection to what he described as "baseless and biased" observations made by UN Special Rapporteur Thomas H Andrews against India.

Saikia said the claim linking the April 2025 terrorist attack in Pahalgam with displaced persons from Myanmar "has absolutely no factual bearing" and accused the Rapporteur of adopting a "communal lens" in assessing the incident.

India urged the UN expert not to rely on "unverified and skewed media reports whose sole purpose appears to be maligning" the country. Saikia noted that India is home to over 200 million Muslims living harmoniously with people of all faiths.

Andrews had alleged that Myanmar refugees in India were being detained and threatened with deportation after the Pahalgam attack, though "no individuals from Myanmar were involved".

Saikia reaffirmed that the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in Myanmar remains a matter of "deep concern" for India due to its cross-border implications, including drug, arms and human trafficking. He also warned of an "alarming level of radicalisation" among some displaced persons impacting local law and order.

Gaza ceasefire is back, says Israel

DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP), AP/PTI: Israel's military said on Wednesday that the ceasefire was back on in Gaza after it carried out heavy overnight airstrikes across the Palestinian territory that killed 104 people, including 46 children.

The strikes — the deadliest since the ceasefire began on October 10 — marked the most serious challenge to the fragile truce to date.

The incident was compounded by the shooting and killing of an Israeli soldier during an exchange of gunfire in Rafah, the southernmost city in Gaza.

US President Donald Trump, on a trip to Asia, defended the strikes, saying Israel was justified in carrying them out after Hamas killed the Israeli soldier, who also held US citizenship.

A man walks past a billboard featuring Dua Lipa, part of the "Thank God for Immigrants" campaign celebrating immigrant icons of British culture, in London on Wednesday. REUTERS

Govt mulling Rs 1L cr plan to bail out state power distributors

Proposes privatisation as a way out of inefficiency

NEW DELHI, REUTERS

India is considering a bailout exceeding Rs 1 lakh crore ($12 billion) for debt-laden state-run power distribution companies.

To receive the bailout funds, the states will be required to privatise their electric utilities and transfer managerial control or keep control but list them on a stock exchange, according to three government officials and a document outlining the plan prepared by the Indian Ministry of Power.

The plan marks Prime Minister Narendra Modi's toughest reform push yet to overhaul the chronically inefficient state-run electricity distribution companies, seen as the weakest link in India's energy chain.

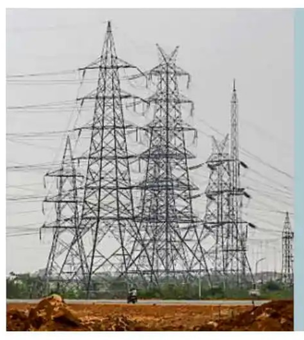
The Power Ministry and the Ministry of Finance are discussing the final details of the bailout, with an announcement expected in the February budget, said two of the government sources.

The ministries did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comments.

Under the proposal, at least 20% of the state's total power consumption must be met by private companies and the states must assume part of the retailer's debt, according to the Power Ministry presentation.

To do so the states can choose to privatise their distribution operations for access to loans to pay off existing debt under two options.

First, the states can create a new distribution company, divest 51% of the equity, which will enable them to access a 50-year interest-free loan for the privatised company's debt, along with access to low-interest federal loans for five years, the presentation showed.



- Under the proposal, at least **20%** of the state's total power consumption must be met by private companies
- The state power retailers have accumulated losses of Rs **7.08 lakh crore** and outstanding debt of Rs **7.42 lakh crore** as of March 2024, the document showed.

The second option would let states privatise up to 26% of the equity of an existing state-owned power distribution company in exchange for access to low-interest loans from the federal government for five years, it showed.

Alternatively, states that do not decide to transfer managerial control through privatisation must list their utilities on a recognised stock exchange within three years.

States that choose to list would receive low-interest loans from the federal government for infrastructure management, the presentation showed.

Debt & losses

The state power retailers have accumulated losses of Rs 7.08 lakh crore and outstanding debt of Rs 7.42 lakh crore as of March 2024, the document showed.

Despite three federal bailouts worth billions of dollars over two decades, state-run power distributors remain financially strained, unable to recover costs due to deeply subsidised tariffs.

Private companies such as Adani Power, Reliance Power, Tata Power, CESC and Torrent Power are expected to benefit from the reforms as they are likely to gain stakes in the state companies.

Past efforts to privatise India's state-run power distribution firms have faced resistance from employees and opposition parties, which has stalled reforms.

"Privatisation is much needed to improve both financial and operational metrics of many power distribution companies. However, this move could face some resistance and will require strong political will," said Debabrat Ghosh, Head of India, Aurora Energy.

Only a handful of distribution zones — including national capital Delhi and industrial states like Maharashtra and Gujarat — are privatised.

The government is working on amending the law in the next parliament session to allow private firms to use existing state-run networks.

Suzuki aims to reclaim India market share with SUVs

Company positioning India as a global production hub

TOKYO, REUTERS

Suzuki Motor President Toshihiro Suzuki stands next to Vision e-Sky, the carmaker's first electric 'kei' car concept, during a press briefing during Japan Mobility Show 2025 at Tokyo, on Wednesday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Suzuki Motor plans to launch eight sport utility vehicles in India over the next five to six years as it looks to reclaim market share lost to rivals, the Japanese automaker's president Toshihiro Suzuki said on Wednesday.

The company is aiming to bring its share of the Indian market - currently at 38% - back to its pre-pandemic level of around 50%, even as competition is at its fiercest since Suzuki began operating in India four decades ago, he said.

"India is Suzuki's most critical market and we have big plans for India," Suzuki said on the sidelines of the Japan Mobility Show in Tokyo.

Suzuki wants to be the biggest seller of electric cars in India and maintain its lead as the country's biggest car exporter, he added.

Fighting off rivals

The new SUVs will bring Suzuki's total product portfolio in India to 28 models.

"We are carefully bringing products and technologies to fulfill aspirations of people ... from entry-level to large SUVs and MPVs," Suzuki said.

He said the push would bring multiple powertrains to India, including hybrids as well as compressed natural gas and biogas-powered cars. He did not give a timeline for meeting the goals.

Suzuki's ambitious plans for India come as its local unit, Maruti Suzuki - still India's biggest carmaker - has lost ground to rivals Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Motors.

In August, Suzuki announced plans to invest $8 billion in India, doubling a commitment it made earlier in the year.

The company's president said the money will be invested in expanding annual production capacity in India to 4 million units from some 2.5 million units currently. Of this, a quarter will be used for exports. "We would like to grow India as Suzuki's global production hub," Suzuki said.

Cognizant raises 2025 revenue growth guidance; says 30% of code written by AI

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Nasdaq-listed Cognizant on Wednesday posted a 7.4% year-on-year (YoY) increase in its revenue for the quarter ended September 2025, at $5.42 billion, which was above the upper end of its guidance range. The company had posted $5.04 billion revenue in the year-ago period.

Cognizant CEO Ravi Kumar S

The IT firm had expected its third quarter revenue to be $5.27-5.35 billion - a growth of 4.6-6.1%.

Cognizant, which follows a January to December fiscal, raised its 2025 constant currency revenue growth guidance from 6.0% to 6.3%, and its 2025 adjusted operating margin guidance is now about 15.7%, expansion of 40 basis points YoY.

During an earnings conference call, Ravi Kumar S, CEO, Cognizant, said in the third quarter, all the industry segments (Health Sciences, Financial Services, Products and Resources, and Communications, Media and Technology) have grown organically.

He also said that they are going to be an AI builder company. "We are excited about the fact that 30% of our code is written by machines, and that number will keep going up, and we will keep leveraging that to improve productivity," he added.

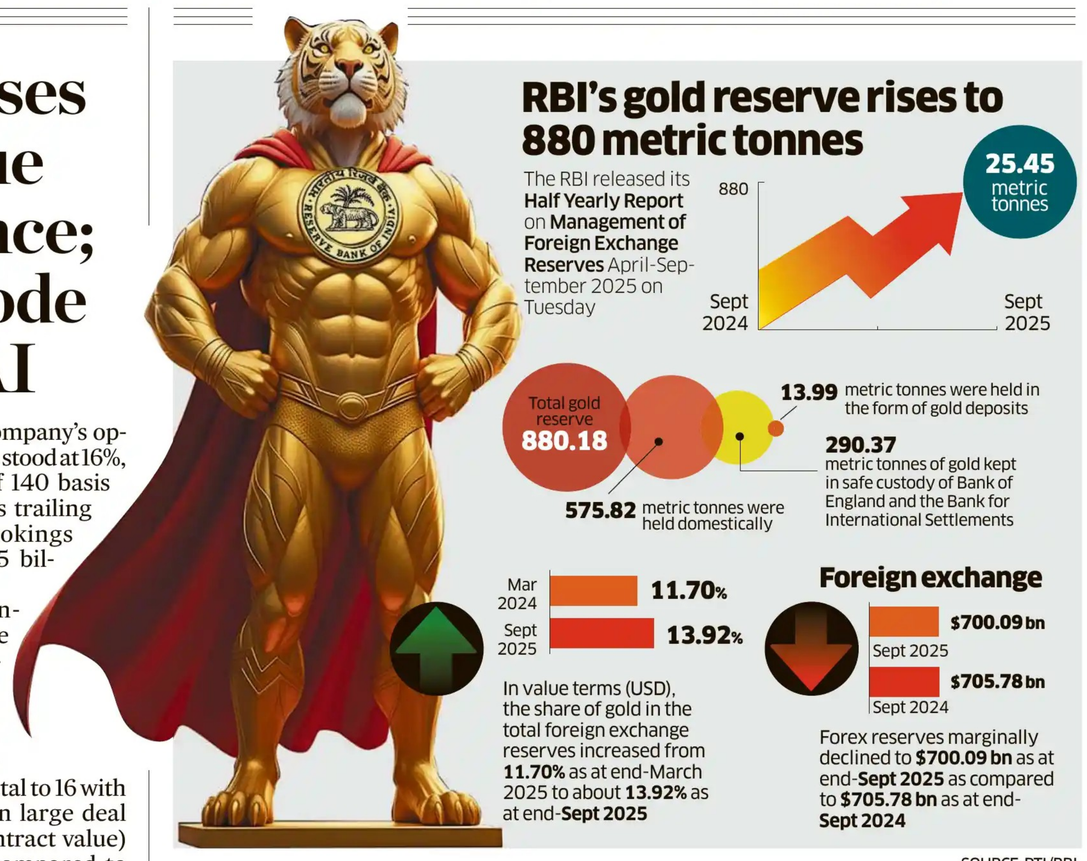
During the September quarter, the company's operating margin stood at 16%, an increase of 140 basis points YoY. Its trailing 12-month bookings stood at $27.5 billion.

"We maintained our large deal momentum, signing six large deals in the quarter, bringing our year-to-date total to 16 with 40% growth in large deal TCV (total contract value) year-to-date compared to the same period last year," the CEO said.

"We believe our three vector AI builder strategy is gaining traction and we expect our early investments in AI-led platforms and IP on the edge will help power growth in the years ahead," he further added.

On H-1B visa fee hike, Jatin Dalal, CFO, said that they have significantly reduced the company's dependency on H-1B visas by increasing local hiring. "We have also stepped up our investments in automation and AI, as well as fresher hiring in the US. We believe that the impact of this change (H-1B hike) would not be material at all to our operations or financial," he said.

On a trailing-twelve months basis, the company's voluntary attrition - tech services was 14.5% for the period ended September 30, 2025. Its total headcount as of September 30, 2025 was 349,800, an increase of 6,000 from June 30, 2025. The company is on track to hire 20,000 freshers this year and also wage hike will be implemented in November.


RBI's gold reserve rises to 880 metric tonnes
The RBI released its Half Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves April-September 2025 on Tuesday
880
Sept 2024
Sept 2025
25.45 metric tonnes
Total gold reserve 880.18
13.99 metric tonnes were held in the form of gold deposits
290.37 metric tonnes of gold kept in safe custody of Bank of England and the Bank for International Settlements
575.82 metric tonnes were held domestically
Mar 2024
11.70%
Sept 2025
13.92%
In value terms (USD), the share of gold in the total foreign exchange reserves increased from 11.70% as at end-March 2025 to about 13.92% as at end-Sept 2025
Foreign exchange
$700.09 bn
Sept 2025
$705.78 bn
Sept 2024
Forex reserves marginally declined to $700.09 bn as at end-Sept 2025 as compared to $705.78 bn as at end-Sept 2024

SOURCE: PTI/RBI

CBI pins Anil Ambani companies for Yes Bank loss

MUMBAI, PTI: Yes Bank suffered a loss of over Rs 2,700 crore due to the "unilateral decision" of its co-founder Rana Kapoor to invest in the Anil Ambani-led financial companies, said the CBI's charge sheet in a case pertaining to alleged fraudulent transactions between the bank and the industrialist's group entities.

Anil Ambani

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) last month filed a charge sheet against 13 people and entities, including Anil Ambani, Rana Kapoor and his family members, alleging criminal conspiracy, cheating and corruption related to loans and investments.

The Federal probe agency's document said that further investigation was on regarding the role of Anil Ambani's son Anmol Ambani, the then executive director of Reliance Capital, in the case.

The case is based on two separate complaints lodged by the Chief Vigilance Officer of Yes Bank.

As per the charge sheet, the bank -- when Rana Kapoor was its managing director and chief executive officer -- made investments of Rs 5,010 crore in financial companies of the Anil Dhirubhai Ambani (ADA) Group between 2017 and 2019.

The investments included Rs 2,965 crore in non-convertible debentures (NCDs) of Reliance Home Finance Limited (RHFL) and 2,045 crore in commercial papers of Reliance Commercial Finance Limited (RCFL). Out of the total amount, Rs 3,337.5 crore turned Non Performing Investment (NPI) by December 2019, the charge sheet said.

CORPORATE SCOREBOARD Q2FY26

L&T posts profit jump on strong overseas projects

Larsen & Toubro (L&T), India's largest infrastructure company by market capitalisation, posted a 15.6% rise in second-quarter profit on Wednesday, helped by stronger execution of overseas orders and consistent order inflows.

The firm's consolidated profit after tax rose to Rs 3,926 crore for the quarter ended September 30.

Total orders grew 45% in the July to September period, compared to 33% growth in the first quarter and a 10% decline in the year-ago quarter. International orders, from geographies such as the Middle East, U.S., Europe and Africa, comprised 65% of the total, up from 63% a year earlier.

Coal India's profit misses view on tepid demand

Coal India, which accounts for about three-quarters of the country's coal output, reported a larger-that-expected 30% decline in quarterly profit on Wednesday, hurt by lower e-auction premiums and weak volumes from tepid demand.

The state-run miner's consolidated net profit fell to Rs 4,354 crore in the second-quarter ended September 30. Analysts, on average, had expected Rs 6,196 crore, according to data compiled by LSEG.

The Kolkata-based firm gets nearly 10% of its sales through e-auctions at near-spot rates. India's power plants have been withdrawing more coal from record high inventories and cutting purchases from Coal India.

Revenue from operations fell 3.2% to Rs30,187 crore.

Radico Khaitan reports sharp rise in profit

Radico Khaitan reported a 73% jump in second-quarter profit on Wednesday, helped by a sharp uptick in demand for liquor housed in the affordable 'regular' segment. The company reported consolidated net profit of Rs 140 crore for the three months ended September 30, compared to Rs 80.66 crore a year ago. Revenue from operations rose 29.4% to Rs 5,057 crore.

In the second quarter, volumes in the 'regular' segment registered sharp growth of 79.6%, after nine quarters of de-growth, Radico said, outshining volumes in the Prestige segment that still grew at a healthy 21.7% year-on-year. The sharp rise in the regular segment was primarily due to liquor policies turning more favourable in Andhra Pradesh, a key state for Radico, the company said.

- Agencies

McDonald's opens one of its largest offices outside US in Hyd

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Global fast food giant McDonald's Corporation on Wednesday inaugurated its global office in Hyderabad, one of its largest centres outside the United States. McDonald's new corporate office in Hyderabad will house global teams across domains like enterprise data and analytics, technology, people, and finance. The opening is set to further strengthen Hyderabad's position as a major global technology hub.

McDonald's workforce based in the Hyderabad global office will work on solutions that impact over 43,000 restaurants and 65 million customers every day, making a global impact on the McDonald's business and supporting global capabilities across the company.

Located in RMZ Nexity in Hitec City, the new office spans four floors and 156,496 square feet.

Security operations company Arctic Wolf expands in B'luru

BENGALURU, DHNS: Security operations company Arctic Wolf on Wednesday announced the expansion of its India Global Capability Center (GCC) with the inauguration of a new 29,000 sq. ft. office in Bengaluru.

Following the launch of its first GCC in Bengaluru in October 2024, Arctic Wolf has scaled its India team from 75 to over 300 employees.

Arctic Wolf said the new office space is designed for collaboration and innovation and includes an advanced R&D lab focused on AI engineering. The facility can accommodate up to 500 people. The company has over 10,000 customers globally.

"Our rapid growth in India underscores the strength of the local talent ecosystem," said Lisa Tetrault, Senior Vice President, Security Services. "The opening of our new Bengaluru office marks a significant milestone in our mission to drive world class cybersecurity innovation from India. This R&D hub will be instrumental in developing cutting-edge solutions that empower organisations globally to end cyber risk," she added.

Jeff Green, Chief Development Officer said the company's focus is on strengthening teams and enhancing its platform capabilities.

The new office will be home to Arctic Wolf's R&D teams with an increased focus on AI enabled innovation and engineering excellence.

OUTREACH FOR FUNDS

IT minister meets 50 VCs; invites them to BTS 2025

BENGALURU, DHNS

Priyank Kharge, Minister for Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Information Technology & Biotechnology, Government of Karnataka, on Wednesday met more than 50 members of the VC fraternity from across the country at the 'Exclusive Interactive Meeting with Investors'.

As a precursor interaction with VCs prior to the Future Makers Conclave to be held during the upcoming 28th edition of the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025, Kharge hailed the role of investors in the State's position and journey, particularly in innovation and technology. "Bengaluru and Karnataka are uniquely positioned to lead the next wave of technology, innovation, and investment and your role in that journey is central. Your participation, presence, and mentorship can make a tangible difference to the next generation of entrepreneurs in AI and Deeptech Innovation," he said.

The Future Makers Conclave to be held on November 20, 2025, is a flagship conference that aims at delivering highly tangible and definite value for all participants from the start-up ecosystem -- budding entrepreneurs, early-stage founders, seasoned entrepreneurs -- that are looking to scale up. "It will be a high-energy gathering comprising founders, investors, and innovators, almost 10,000 of them, who will shape the next wave of entrepreneurship," he said.

Priyank Kharge addressing VCs in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

The minister invited VCs and investors to use the Future Makers Conclave as a platform to announce new investment commitments in AI/Deeptech Start-ups. "Such initiatives will not only demonstrate collective confidence in India's innovation potential but also inspire a new generation of entrepreneurs to build world-class solutions from Bengaluru for the world," he pointed out.

The Future Makers Conclave at BTS 2025 is not just a technology showcase, but an innovation marketplace, where ideas will attract capital, and vision will fuse with opportunity. The meet will ensure that every attendee leaves with concrete key takeaways, whether in capital access, pilots, business tools, mentoring, visibility or networks, he said.

Bengaluru has climbed seven notches in the Global Start-up Ecosystem rankings, now standing at an impressive #14 globally in AI and Big Data in GSER 2025. India ranks sixth globally among Deeptech ecosystems nurturing over 3,600 Deeptech start-ups and majority of these start-ups are based in Karnataka. During 2020-24, Bengaluru start-ups attracted a whopping $38 billion worth of VC funds signalling strong investor confidence. Despite a global meltdown, Karnataka based start-ups have raised $1.7 billion of funds in H1 2025, the highest by any state.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella to visit India in Dec: Sources

NEW DELHI, REUTERS: Microsoft chief executive Satya Nadella is set to travel to India in December, his second visit to the country this year where he plans to hold meetings with top government officials, two sources with direct knowledge said.

Satya Nadella

Nadella will address two AI-related conferences in Bengaluru and Mumbai during his visit, which also includes meetings in New Delhi, said one of the sources.

Microsoft did not respond to a request for comment.

Like other big tech executives, the Indian-born Nadella enjoys strong popularity in a country where engineering degrees are seen as a path to prosperity.

News of his planned visit comes as New Delhi and Washington are trying to iron out trade differences, and as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his officials are promoting the use of local apps over US firms. Among those is Zoho, which offers cheaper alternatives to cloud-based software tools made by Microsoft.

During his January visit to India, Nadella announced a $3 billion investment in AI and cloud capacity, and met Modi.

Companies are ramping up their focus on AI in India, where Microsoft-backed OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Gemini, and Elon Musk's Grok have exploded in popularity. Microsoft's AI assistant Copilot is used widely too, particularly in companies.

Google this month said it would invest $15 billion over five years to set up an AI data centre in India's southern state of Andhra Pradesh.

Nadella will also likely meet key customers and India employees during his visit, the second source said. Microsoft has more than 20,000 employees across 10 Indian cities.

Karnataka's culture, reflected in its language, arts and traditions, brings together history, literature, music and craft.

One language, many voices

Beyond accents and words, the dialects of Kannada tell a deeper story of belonging, identity and change, writes Mallikarjun Meti

Kannada, the voice of Karnataka, thrives through its many dialects, each reflecting the state's rich cultural, historical and social fabric. These dialects are more than mere modes of speech, they are living archives of identity, tradition and everyday life of their speakers. They also mirror regional variations, spanning North Karnataka, South Karnataka, Coastal Karnataka, Hyderabad Karnataka and Kodagu.

At its core, a dialect is a regional or social variation of a language, one that may sound different but remains understandable to other speakers of the same language. Kannada dialects share a common grammatical and lexical foundation, enabling speakers across regions to communicate with mutual understanding, though with varying degrees of ease. They reflect the unique cultural and historical context of its region, often through distinct phonological shifts that add layers of local flavour.

For instance, the North Karnataka dialect, spoken in areas like Dharwad, Belagavi and Vijayapura, carries a bold, rustic tone that mirrors the resilience of agrarian communities. Rooted in local traditions, it resonates with the simplicity of rural life, evoking folk traditions and literary legacies like the Vachana poetry. A hallmark of this dialect is the transformation of word-final 'e' into 'i', as in 'mane' becoming 'mani' (mane → mani, house) or 'ele' becoming 'eli' (ele → eli, leaf).

The Hyderabad Karnataka dialect, spoken in Kalaburagi, Raichur and Bidar, incorporates Telugu, Urdu and Marathi elements, reflecting the region's multicultural borderlands. Here, pronouns like avaru become kavaru (they), and locatives shift as in illi → killi (here).

In contrast, the South Karnataka dialect, prevalent in Mysuru, Bengaluru and Mandya, is often perceived as softer and more "refined," reflecting urban sophistication. Bengaluru's version absorbs influences from Tamil and Telugu, reflecting the city's cosmopolitan nature.

In regions like Hassan, Tumakuru, Kolar and Chitradurga, the velar 'k' shifts to the palatal 'ch' when preceding front vowels such as 'i, ī, e, ē', yielding forms like 'kēḷu' → 'chēḷu' (to hear) or 'kēru' → 'chēru' (street). Notably, this variety lacks the retroflex 'ṣ', replacing it with 's' or 'ś'.

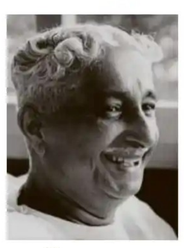
Coastal Kannada, spoken in Mangaluru and Udupi, blends influences from Tulu, Konkani and Beary languages, creating a melodic dialect, tied to vibrant art forms like the Yakshagana. In Mangaluru's standard forms such as 'gañji, gaṇṭu, magu' (rice gruel, knot, child), the coastal variant shifts to 'geñje, geṇṭu, mogu'.

Kodagu's dialect, spoken in the hilly region of Kodagu-Madikeri, is concise and shaped by its unique identity. In the Malenadu-influenced variety, the vowel 'o' often substitutes with 'vo', as in 'ogaṭu' → 'vogaṭu' (riddles).

These dialects are not mere linguistic variations but cultural mirrors, preserving regional stories through vivid phonetic markers.

The stone chariot at the Vijaya Vittala temple in Hampi is one of Karnataka's iconic monuments. PHOTO BY RAMU MASTAIAH

Da Ra Bendre



Kuvempu

Gangubai Hangal

> Kannada dialects share a common grammatical and lexical foundation, enabling speakers across regions to communicate with mutual understanding, though with varying degrees of ease.

Mutual intelligibility among Kannada dialects varies and societal perceptions often exacerbate these differences. While speakers from one region may generally understand another's dialect, distinct pronunciation, vocabulary and intonation, such as the 'e-to-i' shift in Dharwad or the 'k-to-ch' in Hassan, can pose challenges.

Hierarchies in dialects

However, societal biases that label certain dialects as "pure" and others as "less-er" risk eroding this linguistic diversity. Such labels deepen these divides, with some dialects seen as "rough" or "mixed" and others as "pure". Such biases create hierarchies that overlook the equal value of all dialects and dismiss their cultural and historical significance.

In education, these biases have profound consequences, eroding students' confidence and cultural pride. Students speaking dialects perceived as "non-standard" may face correction or criticism, implying their home speech is inferior. This emphasis on a standardised Kannada, often based on urban varieties, can alienate young speakers and disconnect them from their linguistic heritage.

To address this, learning systems should adopt a translanguaging approach, integrating students' home dialects with standard Kannada to create inclusive learning environments. For example, incorporating regional dialects in lessons about local traditions or literature can validate students' linguistic identities, fostering pride and engagement.

Teacher training is essential to dismantle biases and recognise the cultural value of each dialect, ensuring students feel respected regardless of their speech.

In urban areas, the emphasis on English for professional opportunities often leads young speakers to abandon their dialects. Rural and borderland dialects, in particular, struggle to maintain relevance among youth drawn to a globalised culture. Cultural programmes such as theatre festivals can highlight the vibrancy of dialects, making them relevant to younger generations.

In recent years, digital platforms are offering powerful tools for preservation, with social media campaigns, short videos or apps showcasing regional speech patterns to rebrand dialects as modern and appealing.

Policy interventions, such as supporting dialect-specific media or documentation projects, can also ensure their long-term survival.

By embracing these strategies, Karnataka can protect its linguistic heritage, ensuring that every dialect contributes to the state's cultural richness.

Ultimately, Kannada dialects are the cultural heartbeat of Karnataka.

By valuing dialects in education through inclusive teaching, promoting cultural programmes and leveraging digital platforms, Karnataka can safeguard its linguistic mosaic.

Every dialect, from the rustic tones of the north to the melodic cadences of the coast, deserves celebration, ensuring Kannada remains a vibrant, inclusive language that unites the state in its diversity.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to: spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

A forgotten flame of Kannada movement

Gururaj B R narrates the story of Ramzansab Pinjar, a forgotten fighter who embodied the spirit of Karnataka

When Karnataka's borders were redrawn in 1956 to unite Kannada-speaking regions into one state, it was hailed as a triumph of linguistic unity and cultural pride. Behind that victory stood many heroes who gave their voices, strength and lives for the cause. Among them was Ramzansab Pinjar, a young wrestler from Ballari, whose courage spoke louder than words.

Ramzansab Pinjar

From a young age in the 1920s, Ramzansab was actively involved in the state's unification movement and later became a committed member of the Karnataka Action Committee. Through various struggles, he became a familiar face among Kannada activists.

After years of agitation and advocacy, the then central government decided to merge Ballari with the then Mysore State (now Karnataka). The announcement brought immense joy to the Kannada-speaking people of the region, who saw it as the fulfilment of a long-cherished dream. To formally merge parts of Ballari with Mysore, a grand programme was arranged in Ballari on October 1, 1953.

It was the night of September 30, 1953 and Ballari was preparing for celebrations the next day. As an active Kannada activist, Ramzansab took responsibility for organising the event. A massive pandal was erected at the BDA Grounds to host a gathering of over 20,000 people. The then chief minister Kengal Hanumanthaiah was scheduled to attend the event.

However, some Telugu-speaking groups were unhappy with Ballari merging with Mysore state and so, Kannada activists were anticipating some form of retaliation during the programme. As Ramzansab was a wrestler, he along with a group of 12 other wrestlers, decided to guard the pandal and the flagpole through the night to ensure that the celebration would proceed safely.

But tragedy struck in the early hours of October 1, 1953, the very day meant to mark the dawn of a united Kannada land. While Ramzansab was resting at the pandal, an anti-Kannada group launched an acid attack. Despite the searing pain, Ramzansab reportedly ran after his attackers before collapsing. He was rushed to the Gousa Hospital (now the District Hospital) in Ballari. Doctors fought to save him, but his injuries were severe. On October 2, 1953, Ramzansab, who was in his early 40s, succumbed to his wounds.

The Kannada connect

Writer Sidram Kalmath, who documented Ramzansab's life, recounts that he was the son of Hussain Saab, a resident of Pinjar Oni in Brucepet, Ballari. His father had wanted him to become a great wrestler, a dream Ramzansab fulfilled with pride. But alongside his physical strength was a deep emotional connection to Kannada.

"He was a Kannada patriot who lived and died for the language," Kalmath notes. According to his research, after the Union government announced the merger of Ballari district (except Adoni, Alur and Rayadurga taluks) with Mysore State, celebrations were organised across the city.

A grand procession was planned from Vijay Mahal to the BDA Grounds. When word spread that an anti-Kannada group intended to burn down the pandal, Ramzansab immediately mobilised fellow wrestlers to guard it. It was during this vigil that the acid attack occurred, cutting short his young life.

In his article on Ramzansab, theatre personality and writer D S Chougule writes that Ramzansab completed the fourth grade at the "Sarveshavali" (Masjid) school before leaving school. There he learned both Kannada and Urdu. However, Kannada writers, *kirtanakaras*, musicians and scholars had a significant influence on him.

He was known for his leadership, uniting people across villages and mobilising support against attempts to merge Ballari with Andhra. He, along with 1,400 others, was jailed for his activism.

In 1952, he became the chief organiser of the Ballari District Karnataka Action Committee, collecting over one lakh signatures to ensure Ballari remained part of Karnataka.

"His death was a dark day for Kannadigas," says Chougule. Ramzansab's story, like that of many grassroots heroes of the unification movement, remains largely unrecorded in mainstream history. Yet in Ballari, his memory endures, a symbol of unity, courage and sacrifice.

The grave of Ramzansab Pinjar at Ballari.

Bhuvanagiri: The seat of Kannada's mother goddess

Built in the 17th century, the hilltop temple near Siddapur is the only one in Karnataka where goddess Bhuvaneshwari is worshipped every day, writes Ramakrishna Sidrapal

Atop the 300 feet tall Bhuvanagiri Hill in Uttara Kannada's Siddapur stands a temple unlike any other in the state — the Bhuvaneshwari temple, dedicated to the goddess revered as the presiding deity of Kannada.

It is the only temple in Karnataka where Goddess Bhuvaneshwari is worshipped every single day of the year. While the Virupaksha Temple in Hampi also houses an idol of Goddess Bhuvaneshwari, regular rituals are not performed there.

On November 1 every year, Rajyotsava is celebrated in the Bhuvanagiri temple, honouring the spirit of Kannada.

Nestled amid the thick forests of the Western Ghats and surrounded by the gently swaying coconut palms and lush banana and areca nut plantations, this temple is located about eight kilometres from Siddapur on the state highway to Kumta. Visitors can either climb the steps leading up from a pond below or drive up a winding path that reaches the temple gate.

The pond lying at the foot of the hill is spread across two acres. Its water, used solely for temple rituals, glistens in the morning sun. From here, around 250 stone steps lead to the sanctum. Alongside the main shrine of Goddess Bhuvaneshwari stand smaller temples dedicated to Lord Ganapati, Gopalakrishna, Nandikeshwara and the serpent deities (Nagas).

Inside, the sanctum houses a self-manifested (Udbhava) idol of the goddess, whose feet rest upon a *linga*. The stone sanctum and the monolithic flag post (dhwajastambha) carved from a single rock stand as enduring witnesses to the temple's antiquity. While the core structure has a Vijayanagara-style stone architecture, the surrounding halls and entrances have been renovated over time.

At the temple entrance, fluttering red-and-yellow Kannada flags and bright door hangings greet every visitor, symbolising the temple's deep connection with Karnataka's linguistic and cultural pride.

Legend and lineage

According to legend, the goddess chose to make Bhuvanagiri her abode after slaying the demon Bhuvanasura. Historical references indicate that the rulers of the Kadamba dynasty, who governed from Banavasi, worshipped Goddess Bhuvaneshwari as their *nada devate* as early as the fourth century.

They are believed to have originally conceived the idea of constructing a temple dedicated to her, though they were unable to carry it out.

Later, the Vijayanagara rulers, who also revered the goddess, installed an idol in Hampi's Virupaksha Temple. Taking a cue, the Bilagi kings, loyal feudatories of Vijayanagara and ardent patrons of Kannada, took up the construction of the temple at Bhuvanagiri.

The temple was completed in 1692 by Basavendra, the last ruler of the Bilagi kingdom, whose dominion once stretched from the Gangavali river in present-day Uttara Kannada to the Gangolli river in Udupi district.

Faith and festivity

The temple's daily rituals are carried out by the hereditary priests of the Muttige family, who have been serving the goddess for generations. The pooja and prayers are offered thrice a day.

Every year, the temple's festive calendar unfolds with grandeur from the Sharannavarathri and Rathotsava to the colourful Pallakki Utsava and Teppotsava (boat festival) held during the Karthika full moon.

During this festival, the pond is illuminated with thousands of oil lamps and the goddess's idol is taken on a decorated boat that glides gracefully across the water, a spectacle that draws devotees from far and wide.

People from nearby villages such as Gunjagodu, Bedkani, Muttige and Halageri consider Goddess Bhuvaneshwari their *kuladevate* (family deity) and gather here in large numbers for the celebrations. The temple is managed by a local village committee, which oversees its upkeep and annual events. Devotees and committee members believe this sacred site, one of the rare temples where Goddess Bhuvaneshwari is worshipped throughout the year, deserves greater recognition and support to help preserve its legacy.

The Bhuvaneshwari Temple atop Bhuvanagiri in Uttara Kannada's Siddapur; (right) The temple pond. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

Hardik Raj

Spinners fashion Karnataka's big win over UP

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka spin triumvirate of Dhruv Prabhakar, Hardik Raj and Shashikumar K stepped up superbly on the final day to fashion a fine 75-run win over Uttar Pradesh in their Col CK Nayudu Trophy under-23 Elite Group D match on Wednesday.

While off-spinner Prabhakar (3/47) and left-arm orthodox Hardik (3/36) bagged three wickets apiece, offie Shashikumar took 2/57 as Karnataka skittled out Uttar Pradesh for 193 in 69 overs at the Victoria Park Stadium in Meerut.

Thanks to the win, Karnataka are now on top of Group D with 23 points from two games, while UP are placed second with 16 points. Karnataka next take on Chhattisgarh at the SDNRW Ground in Mysuru from Nov 2-5.

With UP resuming at 92/3 and needing another 177 runs for victory, the match was firmly in the balance and it looked like the hosts were on course for the full compliment of points as the overnight pair of Adarsh Singh (62) and Shubhman Mishra (10) negotiated the opening half hour without any trouble.

But the moment Shashikumar castled Shubhman in the 50th over, the game swung decisively towards Karnataka with Hardik and Prabhakar also joining the party and triggering a collapse -- from 126/4 to 193 all out.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 235 & 248 bt Uttar Pradesh: 215 & (O/n: 92/3) 193 all out in 69 overs (Adarsh Singh 62, Rituraj Sharma 37; Dhruv Prabhakar 3-47, Shashikumar K 2-57, Hardik Raj 3-36).

CRICKET

Spotlight on returning Pant

India A take on South Africa A in first of two four-day games from today

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

The spotlight will be firmly on a fit-again Rishabh Pant but the national team's new No. 3 Sai Sudharsan would be keen on sharpening his skills as India A gear up for the first of the two four-day games against South Africa A starting here on Thursday.

Ever since he fractured his right foot while attempting a reverse sweep in the Manchester Test against England late July, the dynamic Pant has been rendered hors de combat, missing the Asia Cup as well as the home two-match Test series against West Indies.

But following treatment and subsequent rehabilitation at BCCI's Centre of Excellence on the outskirts of the City where both the games against South Africa A will be played, a buoyant Pant will be desperate to bounce back to life ahead of the crucial two-match Test series versus World Test Championship winners South Africa.

"Rishabh looks fantastic actually, may be more fitter I would say," Sudharsan said of the captain's physical condition. "He had some time to build that training in his legs. I feel sometimes when you get injured you have that specific time to work on whatever you want. I feel he looks a bit more fitter and stronger, and as courageous as always he is."

With Pant expected to slip back to the vice-captaincy role for the Proteas rubber starting November 14 in Kolkata, the two games here are the perfect chance for the 28-year-old to get the juices flowing.

Rishabh Pant (left) will be looking to get his competitive juices flowing while Sai Sudharsan will hope to accumulate some runs when India A hosts South Africa A in the opening four-day game starting in Bengaluru on Thursday. PTI

In terms of batting, Pant, who has been named captain for this series, would hardly face much challenge considering South Africa A have fielded a relatively inexperienced attack. With the pitch at CoE also expected to favour the batters like it did in the Duleep Trophy, one can expect Pant to go after the South Africa bowlers in his typical high-octane style.

Pant would also want to spend some quality time in the middle, considering he hasn't played competitive cricket over the last few months. Promoting himself up the order to No. 4 instead of coming out at No. 5 could give him a longer stint in the middle.

More than batting, it's Pant's wicketkeeping the selectors will keep a close eye on. And Pant will be given a solid workout on that front with Saransh Jain, Manav Suthar and Harsh Dubey expected to test the Delhiite.

Sudharsan will be another player who would be looking for a big knock in the two games. The under-pressure Tamil Nadu batter has silenced the critics for the moment with a timely 87 in the first innings of the second Test against the West Indies in New Delhi.

Sudharsan's initiation to international cricket hasn't been smooth but there's little doubt he's amongst the most talented young batters in the country. A big knock here would bolster his confidence ahead of the bigger battles in Kolkata and Guwahati.

Although most of the squad for the two Tests against South Africa picks itself, players like Devdutt Padikkal and Rajat Patidar would be determined to make an impression and keep their names in the reckoning.

Padikkal was part of the squad for the West Indies series and a quality knock here would put him right up the pecking order for a cap in case a regular player gets injured. The selectors have spoken about investing in him and he would be keen to vindicate their decision.

Squads: India A: Rishabh Pant (capt, WK), Ayush Mhatre, N Jagdeesan (wk), Sai Sudharsan (vice-capt), Devdutt Padikkal, Rajat Patidar, Harsh Dubey, Tanush Kotian, Manav Suthar, Khaleel Ahmed, Gurnoor Brar, Anshul Kamboj, Yash Thakur, Ayush Badoni, Saransh Jain.

South Africa A: Marques Ackerman (capt), Okuhle Cele, Zubayr Hamza, Jordan Hermann, Rubin Hermann, Rivaldo Moonsamy, Tshepo Moreki, Mihlali Mpongwana, Lesego Senokwane, Prenelan Subrayen, Kyle Simmonds, Tsepo Ndwandwa, Jason Smith, Tiaan van Vuuren, Codi Yusuf.

Mature Vidwath takes rough with the smooth

Pacer scalped his 6th first-class 5-wkt haul vs Goa

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Having returned from a stress fracture and a shin injury and featuring just in his second Ranji Trophy game since February 2024, Vidwath Kaverappa clocked a successful Karnataka comeback against Goa at the KSCA Navule Stadium in Shivamogga.

While the 26-year-old conceded that the body felt a little rusty, there were no signs of discomfort as he gradually kept on amping up his speeds as the game progressed.

"I was a little bit rusty. It (bowling) wasn't up to my satisfaction," Vidwath said after Karnataka's game against Goa ended in a draw.

Vidwath, with some assistance from overcast conditions and the surface, kept it simple and went to the unerring line and length that has always brought him success in his career.

The choice of the fourth-stump mantra resulted in a sixth first-class five-wicket haul and also a crucial first-innings lead for Karnataka.

However, the fruits in Shivamogga came from the seeds that were sown at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru.

"It is a part of life (injuries). Whenever you are going through a good phase, a bad phase is bound to come. It is just how you react to the situation. I knew I wanted to work on a few things (pace, control), so I took it as an off-season and was working at the NCA, which helped me out."

Vidwath Kaverappa.
DH PHOTO/ KRISHNAKUMAR PS

Vidwath has also come to terms with the fact that a setback is never far away, which has helped him take nothing for granted. Not even his spot in the Karnataka side, where he is among the most important assets.

"Wasn't in the best of touches (last season), coming back from a long injury. There are other people as well who are fighting for that spot to represent the team. So I knew I had to work my way back. I was just waiting for the Ranji Trophy to start and it felt good to contribute to the team and get three points on the board."

When asked about his personal evaluation of bowling 31 overs across both innings after a long break, Vidwath said that the body is still not at 100 per cent yet.

"I think I am somewhere around 80% (in terms of fitness)."

Rachitha, Liyanka shine

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rachitha Hatwar slammed an exact fifty while team-mate Liyanka Shetty fell just three runs short of it as Karnataka defeated Bengal by 35 runs in the BCCI under-19 Women's T20 Trophy at the Lady Amritbai Daga College ground in Nagpur on Wednesday.

Rachitha's 50 and Liyanka's 47 powered Karnataka to 161/4 in 20 overs.

Ipsita Mondal led Bengal's chase with a match-high score of 53 but lack of significant contributions from her team-mates saw them being restricted to 126/7 in 20 overs.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 161/4 in 20 overs (Rachitha Hatwar 50, Liyanka Shetty 47, Kashvi Kandikuppa 33; Diya Nandi 3-17) bt Bengal: 126/7 in 20 overs (Ipsita Mondal 53 n.o.; Veda Varshini V 2-11).

Cheran, Amey tons power Jawahar

BENGALURU, DHNS: Cheran Tej Raju C and Amey of Jawahar Sports Club (1) slammed unbeaten centuries to star in their side's massive 238-run win over Cavaliers Cricket Club in the KSCA Group I - I, II & III Division under-14 inter-club tournament here.

LOCAL CRICKET

Brief scores: Jawahar Sports Club (1): 329/2 in 50 overs (Amey 121 n.o., Cheran Tej Raju C 153 n.o.) bt Cavaliers Cricket Club: 91 all out in 30.5 overs (Bhavin Joe Francis 3-26, M Shreyas 3-25, Chirag A 4-14).
Whirlwind Cricketers: 95 all out in 40.3 overs (Bhuvan Shekhar Gowda 34; Anirudh Prasanna 2-18, Sameer Hegde 2-17, Vismay N Murthy 3-18) lt to Mount Joy Cricket Club: 96/5 in 25.1 overs (Sameer Hegde 34 n.o.; Advaith S 2-20, Akhilesh S Lamani 2-13).
Yankees Cricket Club: 122 all out in 38 overs (S Dhananjay 3-15, Shreyas N 5-36) bt Vikram Cricket Club: 112 all out in 32.5 overs (Muli Venkata Naveen Reddy 30; Nadavala Srinivas Charvik 3-18, Manraj Singh 4-26).
Hammonds Cricket Club: 149/6 in 50 overs (Lalithesh R 44, Vikrant Ronav Budala 44, Surya Rajesh 36 n.o.; Jaipreeth 2-23) lt to RVCE Gymkhana: 150/3 in 36 overs (Atharv Karadi 32, P Lithik Reddy 90 n.o.).

City to host Indian camp before BJKC play-offs

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA) will be hosting a 10-day national camp here for the Indian women's tennis team ahead of their crucial Billie Jean King Cup Group G play-off matches against the Netherlands and Slovenia at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium from November 14 to 16.

The Indian team -- consisting of Sahaja Yamalapalli (world No. 344), Shrivalli Bhamidipaty (434), Ankita Raina (457), Riya Bhatia (460), Prarthana Thombare, Vishal Uppal (captain) and Radhika Kanitkar (coach) -- will arrive in the city in batches from November 4 onwards. The visiting teams will start arriving from November 7 onwards to acclimatise to the high-altitude location.

The Indian team, which qualified for the playoffs for the first time since 2021, will compete in the new three-team round-robin format for the first time, replacing the older two-team home-and-away face-off format. The group winner will progress to the 2026 BJKC Qualifiers, while the remainder will compete in Group I.

Sahaja Yamalapalli will be the highest ranked Indian at the BJKC play-offs in Bengaluru. DH FILE PHOTO

It's going to be a tall ask for India as they take on 2003 quarterfinalists Slovenia (November 15) and two-time finalists Netherlands (November 16). Both matches will have best-of-three formats (two singles and a doubles match if required). While the Netherlands will be led by world No. 85 Suzan Lamens, Slovenia's key player is world No. 102 Kaja Juvan. Most of the players from both sides are ranked higher than India's No. 1.

The KSLTA is spending about Rs 2 crore on the event, which includes relaying work on the courts of both KSLTA and Kanteerava Stadium (practice courts).

"For the event, the total budget is about Rs 2 crore and we are raising funds through sponsors and the government for it," KSLTA official Sunil Yajaman told *DH*.

KSLTA also announced that it will host the 10th edition of Bengaluru Open (which is upgraded from ATP 100 to 125 event) early January, followed by KPB Trust Women's Open (ITF W100 event) late January or the first week of February.

Oman replaces Pakistan in Jr Hockey WC

LAUSANNE, PTI: Oman will replace Pakistan in the FIH Men's Junior World after the latter withdraw from the tournament to be held in Chennai and Madurai from November 28 till December 10, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) confirmed on Wednesday.

"After the Pakistan Hockey Federation has notified the International Hockey Federation (FIH) that they have not accepted the invitation to participate in the upcoming FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup Tamil Nadu 2025, after their team had qualified for this event at the Asia Junior Cup last year, the Men's Junior team of Oman will now join the list of participating teams for this event that will take place from 28 November to 10 December 2025 in the cities of Chennai and Madurai, India," the FIH said in a statement.

Pakistan were placed in Group B alongside India, Chile, and Switzerland.

Rakesh's late goal completes Kickstart's comeback job

BENGALURU, DHNS: A stoppage-time goal from Ngairangbam Rakesh Singh helped Kickstart FC rally from a goal down to a 2-1 victory over Bengaluru FC at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Tuesday.

While Rakesh scored both goals, it was a crucial victory for Kickstart over their title rivals, as the club went level on points with Bengaluru United at the top (32 points each). Kickstart (played 12 matches) dropped to the second spot on goal difference but have a game in hand.

Rakesh brought his team on level terms from the spot at the 51st minute after Shamanad KP (15th) scored early in the first half. The winning goal came deep in the injury time at the 90+5th minute, sealing all three points for his side.

Results: Kickstart FC: 2 (Ngairangbam Rakesh Singh 51st P, 90+5th) bt BFC: 1 (Shamanad K P 15th); United Stars FC: 2 (Emmanual J Adolf 15th, Hendry Antony 17th) bt Parikrma FC: 1 (Haominthang Kipgen 41st); FC Agniputhra: 3 (Kumayle Merchant 14th, Gautam Rajesh 44th, Nithin Paul 45th) bt Bangalore Dream United FC: 0.

FC Agniputhra's Aaryan Amla dribbles past Bangalore Dream United's Laldinthara (left) and Athili Chithuyio during their Super Division League championship match at the BFS on Wednesday.
DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Arjun brace powers Baldwin Boys

BENGALURU, DHNS: Arjun scored a brace as hosts Baldwin Boys' High School defeated The Frank Antony Public School 3-1 in an under-16 category match of the Baldwin Shield inter-school football tournament on Wednesday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Results: U-16: St John's High School: 2 (Irvin Chris 9th, Syed Hasan 24th) drew with Frank Anthony Public School: 2 (Calvin Harp 5th, Ryen Rajesh 14th); Baldwin Boys' High School: 3 (Arjun 17th, 21st, Malhaan 20th) bt The Frank Antony Public School: 1 (Utkarsh 5th).
U-14: Ryan International School: 2 (Mahith 6th, Arjit 24th) bt The Frank Antony Public School: 1 (Md Zayyan 5th); Bishop Cotton Boys' School: 1 (Numan Khan 28th) bt The Frank Antony Public School: 0.
U-12: St Joseph's Boys' High School: 2 (Yash Pai 6th, Laim Lamb 13th) bt Baldwin Boys' High School: 0; The Frank Antony Public School: 2 (Pranav R 2nd, Rahul P 10th) bt Cathedral High School: 1 (Joshua Allen 3rd); Vidyashilp Academy: 0 drew with Cathedral High School: 0; The Frank Antony Public School: 2 (Karthik Kabilian 1st, 14th) bt Ryan International School: 1 (Om 3rd).

Anahat beats world No. 7 to post biggest win of her career

TORONTO, PTI: India's 17-year-old rising star Anahat Singh **(in pic)** stunned defending champion and second seed Tinne Gilis of Belgium to storm into the semi-finals of Canadian Women's Open squash tournament here.

Unseeded Anahat won 3-0 (12-10, 11-9, 11-9) against her world No. 7 opponent in the quarterfinal match that lasted 36 minutes on Tuesday night. The Indian is currently ranked 43rd in the world.

This was Anahat's biggest win in her career and first against a top-10 player.

She has been in tremendous form in the tournament, a PSA Tour silver level event, having also beaten world number 20 Melissa Alves of France in the pre-quarterfinals.

She now faces world number 10 and fourth seed Gina Kennedy of England in the semifinals.

Lakshya advances, Srikanth ousted

SAARBRUCKEN (GERMANY), PTI: Star Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen stunned fifth seed Christo Popov of France in straight games to enter the men's singles pre-quarterfinals at the USD 475,000 Hylo Open Super 500 tournament here on Wednesday.

Lakshya defeated Popov 21-16, 22-20 in the opening round. Lakshya will next face compatriot S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian, who defeated Malaysia's Jun Hao Leong 21-14, 18-21, 21-16 in his opening round match.

However, it was curtains for Kidambi Srikanth who lost 19-21, 11-21 to compatriot Kiran George in the men's singles.

BTC hopeful of getting licence in time

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bangalore Turf Club is hopeful of getting the licence from the State Government on Thursday so that it can kick off its Winter Season as planned from November 1, the prospect of which appears bleak at the moment.

During a surprise visit to the BTC on Sunday evening, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah warned that he won't issue the licence if the club fails to assure the government that they would exit the current premises in the next two years.

While most members of the club are in favour to shift base to Kunigal, where the state government has promised them 120 acres of land besides six acres in the current facility to conduct club house and betting activities, a delay in putting the promises from both sides on paper could result in the licence being withheld.

Former BTC chairman R Manjunath Ramesh, who addressed a press conference on Wednesday to unveil the Winter Season schedule as well as a three-year partnership between the club and Zavaray S Poonawalla, said they are burning the midnight oil to get the licence.

(From left) Former Bangalore Turf Club chairman R Manjunath Ramesh, Zavaray S Poonawalla and Simone Poonawalla at a press conference on Wednesday.

"We are very hopeful of getting the licence and hopeful of starting the races on November 1, which is the first day of the Winter Season. We are expecting the licence by tomorrow evening (Thursday)," said Ramesh.

When asked what the club intends to do if the licence doesn't come through, Ramesh chose to remain optimistic. "There are no signals from the government suggesting that they would not issue the licence. The land issues are there, which we are in talks over the last two days. We will finalise the talks very soon."

Ramesh also said a decision has been made to shift base to Kungial but the process of putting it into paper will take time as a Special General Body Meeting has to be called for and passed with two-thirds majority. "It has been agreed to move to Kunigal. For betting operations as well as clubhouse activities the government has agreed to give us about 4-6 acres here. We are working on all of these."

Meanwhile, Poonawalla said he was delighted to forge a three-year partnership with BTC through which stake money for all the big races will receive a substantial push. "The Power Sponsorship Scheme stands out as a game-changer for horse racing. The forward thinking model is designed to attract a broader spectrum of sponsors with greater ease while also committing the club to increase its contribution towards stakes."

Under the new model, next year's Summer Derby is expected to offer Rs 5 crore overall as prize money, a 150 per cent jump from Rs 2 crore offered this year. The same prize money hike will apply to all the classics.

Jaiveer silver sparks medal rush at AYG

MANAMA (BAHRAIN), PTI: India's Jaiveer Singh settled for silver in the boys' 55 kg freestyle wrestling while Rachana clinched the bronze medal in the corresponding 43 kg girls' event in the Youth Asian Games here on Wednesday.

Jaiveer went down 2-6 to Japan's Yamato Furusawa in the final. He had ousted Kazakhstan's Ibrahim Yskakbek 5-0.

In the bronze medal match, Rachana got the better of Kyrgyzstan by an emphatic 11-0 margin. Later Komal Verma added another bronze to India's kitty in the girls' 49kg freestyle, defeating China's Mo Xiaoqing. She had earlier lost to Japan's Yuu Katsume 0-10.

In badminton, India's Vennala Kalagotla lost to Thailand's Anyapat Phichitpreechasak 19-21, 13-21 in the girls' singles quarterfinals. In the boys' singles too Indian shuttlers tasted defeat.

IN BRIEF

Aryan brace powers DYES A

▸ Aryan Uthappa MT scored a brace to power Dept of Youth Empowerment & Sports A to a thumping 4-1 win over Postal in the ninth Hockey Karnataka League Championship on Wednesday, reports DHNS.

Results: Dept of Youth Empowerment & Sports A: 4 (Aryan Uthappa MT 18th, 26th, Yathish Kumar B 25th, Livin CP 50th) bt Postal: 1 (Ramesh HT 40th).

K'taka begin with big win

▸ Powered by E Santhosh's hat-trick and Gurumayum Prohit Kumar's brace, Karnataka sailed past Uttar Pradesh 8-0 to begin their campaign at the Junior Boys National Football Championship on a rousing note on Wednesday in Amritsar, Punjab, reports DHNS.

Results: Karnataka: 8 (Gurumayum Prohit Kumar 5th, 10th, E Santhosh 12th, 45+3rd, 60th, Ved Krishnama 41st, Rengbek Sekho 67th, Eklavya Anand Goenka 79th) bt Uttar Pradesh: 0.

KSCA trials for girls

▸ The Karnataka State Cricket Association will conduct open selection trials to pick three/ four teams to participate in the Under-23 Women T-20 selection matches to be held during second/ third week of November in Bengaluru, reports DHNS.

Those interested in participating in the selection trials are requested to report at 8.00 am on November 2, Sunday at the KSCA-B ground in cricketing attire with a xerox copy of their date of birth certificate.

Girls who are born on or after 01/09/2002 and born before 31/08/2009 are eligible for the selection trials.

Depleted SA thump Pakistan

RAWALPINDI, AFP: An under-strength South Africa proved too strong for Pakistan in a convincing 55-run win in the first Twenty20 international in Rawalpindi on Tuesday.

Without seven frontline players, either rested or injured, the Proteas reached 194-9 with opener Reeza Hendricks hitting a 40-ball 60.

Brief scores: South Africa: 194/9 in 20 overs (Reeza Hendricks 60, Tony de Zorzi 33, George Linde 36; Saim Ayub 2-31, Mohammad Nawaz 3-26) bt Pakistan: 139 all out in 18.1 overs (Saim Ayub 37, Mohammad Nawaz 36; Lizaad Williams 2-21, Corbin Bosch 4-14, George Linde 3-31) by 55 runs. **PoM**: George Linde. **Series**: SA lead 3-match sries 1-0.

Kiwis hammer reckless England

HAMILTON, AFP: New Zealand defeated England by five wickets in the second ODI in Hamilton on Wednesday, with the return of Jofra Archer unable to ignite the visitors' full-throttle style of cricket.

The victory meant New Zealand clinched the three-match series with a game to spare after their four-wicket win in Mount Maunganui on Sunday.

Brief scores: England: 175 all out in 36 overs (Joe Root 25, Harry Brook 34, Jamie Overton 42; Blair Tickner 4-34, Nathan Smith 2-27) lt to New Zealand: 177/5 in 33.1 overs (Rachin Ravindra 54, Daryl Mitchell 56 n.o., Mitchell Santner 34 n.o.; Jofra Archer 3-23) by 5 wkts. **PoM**: Blair Tickner. **Series**: NZ lead 3-match series 2-0.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Women's WC semifinal: Australia vs India **(3 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

TENNIS

Paris Masters: Round of 16 **(3:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, Sony LIV.**

CRICKET WOMEN'S ODI WORLD CUP

India up against formidable Australia

Hosts hope for an encore of 2017 WC against Healy & Co

G KRISHNAN
NAVI MUMBAI

With one half of India's most-successful opening pair in women's ODIs, Pratika Rawal, ruled out of the ICC Women's World Cup knock outs due to injury, hosts India have an arduous task on hand.

With a mixed bag of results leading to the semifinals, Harmanpreet Kaur & Co will have to lift themselves up and put up a strong show akin to the one against New Zealand last Thursday at the same venue, DY Patil Stadium, if they have to go past defending champions Australia on Thursday.

It was India, who handed Australia their last 50-over World Cup defeat in the 2017 semifinals in England, courtesy Kaur's brilliant unbeaten 171. Since then, Australia have been on a 15-game winning streak in World Cups, bagging the 2022 title and remaining undefeated in this edition.

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS NETWORK, 3.00 PM

In the absence of Rawal, India will depend a lot on their highest run-getter in this World Cup, Smriti Mandhana (365 runs), and hope for skipper Kaur to come good in the all-important semifinal.

While Mandhana has been in form not only in this World Cup but also in this calendar year, being the only woman to cross 1,000 runs, the same cannot be said of Kaur. Barring her 70 against England in Indore, Kaur has not crossed 22 in the other five innings. India will look for a repeat of what Kaur did against the Aussies eight years ago.

Without Rawal (second highest run-maker with 308 runs at the end of league stage), Shafali Verma, whose place Rawal took in the WODIs late last year, will most likely open with Mandhana in the semifinal. It'd be a like-for-like replacement with the right-handed Shafali also being an aggressive batter who can make the most of the Power Play fielding restrictions.

"What happened to Pratika was unfortunate. No one wants a sportsperson to have such an injury. But God has sent me here to do something special," said Shafali on Wednesday.

The 21-year-old from Haryana added that straightaway joining the team ahead of the semifinal was not an issue. "I have played in World Cup semifinals before. I count on my experience of playing against Australia before."

At a venue where India have played two matches in the last week and found it to be a batting beauty, the hosts would like to believe they have an edge.

But Australia know how to win World Cups, having clinched seven titles in 12 previous editions. India will rely on the trio of off-spinners Deepti Sharma, joint highest wicket-taker (15 scalps), Sneh Rana and left-armer Sree Charani to contain the Australians.

In their previous clash in the league stage, Australia made a world record successful chase in WODIs, courtesy captain Alyssa Healy's first of two back-to-back hundreds. Healy rested herself for the last two league matches due to a minor calf injury and will be raring to go and hoping to record a hat-trick of hundreds.

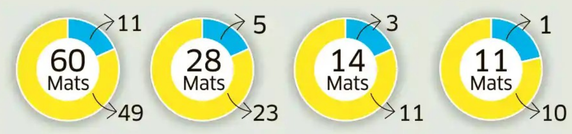
Australia have shown they enough ammunition in their ranks to extract the team from precarious positions. Beth Mooney's 109 against Pakistan after being 76 for seven helped her team win by107 runs. Against England, Australia were 65/5 chasing 245 before Ashleigh Gardner's second hundred of the tournament saw Australia win with 9.3 overs to spare and without losing any further wicket.

On the bowling front, Australia have a world-class leg-spinner in Alana King. King picked up 7/18 against South Africa in the last league match – the best bowling figures in Women's World Cup and also by an Aussie. Her 13 wickets are next only to medium-pacer and team-mate Anna Sutherland and India's Deepti (15 each) and England's Sophie Ecclestone (16).

Teams (from): INDIA: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt), Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (WK), Deepti Sharma, Sneh Rana, Amanjot Kaur, Radha Yadav, Sree Charani, Uma Chetry, Kranti Gaud, Arundhati Reddy and Renuka Thakur.
AUSTRALIA: Alyssa Healy (Capt & WK), Phoebe Litchfield, Georgia Voll, Ashleigh Gardner, Tahlia McGrath, Elysse Perry, Sophie Molineux, Kim Garth, Alana King, Annabel Sutherland, Heather Graham, Beth Mooney, Darcie Brown, Megan Schutt and Georgia Wareham.

Smriti Mandhana, India's highest run-getter, will be eyeing another super show against Australia. PTI

INDIA V AUSTRALIA IN WOMEN'S ODIS



AUSTRALIA RESULTS IN WC SEMIFINALS

Year	Vs	Venue	Result
1997	India	Delhi	Won by 19 runs
2000	South Africa	Lincoln	Won by 9 wkts
2005	England	Potchefstroom	Won by 5 wkts
2017	India	Derby	Lost by 36 runs

RESULTS IN 2025

INDIA				AUSTRALIA			
21 Mats	13 Won	7 Lost	61.9 win%	21 Mats	11 Won	1 Lost	91.7 win%

*No Result 1

CAPTAINCY RECORD

HARMANPREET KAUR		ALYSSA HEALY	
28 Won	16 Lost	23 Won	4 Lost
Tied: 1, NR: 1		Tied: 0, NR: 1	
Win%: 60.9		Win%: 82.1	

Compiled by Arun Gopalakrishnan

Wolvaardt, Kapp fire Proteas into maiden final

South Africa romp to a 125-run win over sloppy England

GUWAHATI, PTI

South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt scored a hundred for the ages before the seasoned Marizanne Kapp made the ball talk in good batting conditions to script a 125-run victory over England and enter their maiden Women's ODI Cup final here on Wednesday.

Wolvaardt single-handedly pushed South Africa to a formidable 319 for seven with an epic 169 runs off 143 balls, negating the impact of two mini collapses caused by left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone. Four-time champions England needed to pull off a record chase to reach another summit clash but Kapp, after doing her bit with the bat, broke the opposition back with a five-wicket haul, limiting them to 194 in 42.3 overs.

"Still feels a bit unreal. You dream as a kid of scoring a hundred in a World Cup knock-out game," Wolvaardt said at the post-match presentation ceremony after receiving the 'Player of the Match' award. "This probably has to be right at the top considering the context, a World Cup semifinal. It is right up there."

The Proteas women had played back-to-back T20 World Cup finals but lost on both occasions. On a surface with plenty of runs, Kapp got the ball to seam both ways.

Brief scores: South Africa: 319/7 in 50 overs (Laura Wolvaardt 169, Tazmin Brits 45, Marizanne Kapp 42, Chloe Tryon 33 n.o.; Lauren Bell 2-55, Sophie Ecclestone 4-44) bt England: 194 all out in 42.3 overs (Nat Sciver-Brunt 64, Alice Capsey 50, Danielle Wyatt-Hodge 34, Linsey Smith 27; Marizanne Kapp 5-20, Nadine de Klerk 2-24). **Result:** South Africa won by 125 runs. **PoM:** Laura Wolvaardt.

South Africa's captain Laura Wolvaardt (in pic) scored 143-ball 169 before Marizanne Kapp fifer demolished English batting in the first semifinal in Guwahati on Wednesday. PTI

Sky finds some form but skies play spoilsport

CANBERRA, PTI

India skipper Suryakumar Yadav was back in his element with some spectacular hits but inclement weather proved to be a complete dampener as the first T20 International against Australia was called off after a steady spell of shower here on Wednesday.

With his deputy Shubman Gill (37 not out off 20 balls) also in good nick, Suryakumar showed controlled aggression before unleashing a flurry of attractive strokes en route his unbeaten 39 off 24 balls. The duo added 62 runs off 35 balls for the second wicket and both looked good for big scores which was not to be in the end.

Suryakumar, who has had a strike-rate of less than 110 and managed only 100 runs in 2025, showed why he was once world's No. 1 ranked T20 batter as he picked up a Josh Hazlewood delivery and deposited it over square leg fence.

That was the shot of confidence that Suryakumar needed in his armoury. It only helped that Manuka Oval strip had good bounce and carry, two essential co-factors in the Indian skipper's game.

He farmed the strike for some time till he reached 20 before breaking the shackles off Nathan Ellis' over, the 10th of the innings, as he uppishly square-cut, followed by an off-drive and then a huge pull over mid-wicket for a six before the heavens opened up.

At the other end, Gill blended caution and aggression with some lusty blows, including a slog-swept six over cow corner off left-arm spinner Matt Kuhnemann which effectively opened the floodgates.

There were two breaks across the 9.4 overs that India had to endure and after the first break, next 4.4 overs turned out to be very productive for the visitors with 54 runs coming during that phase.

Brief scores: India: 97/1 in 9.4 overs (Shubman Gill 37 n.o., Suryakumar Yadav 39 n.o.) vs Australia. **Series**: 5-match series 0-0 after the washout. **Next match**: Oct 31 (Melbourne)

Suryakumar Yadav looked in great touch during his 24-ball 39 before rain washed out the first T20I between India and Australia on Wednesday. AFP

Reddy ruled out of first three T20Is with neck spasms

Injury prone all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy has been ruled out of the first three T20 Internationals against Australia due to neck spasms, the BCCI said on Wednesday, reports PTI from Canberra.

Reddy, who was ruled out of the third ODI against Australia in Sydney due to quadriceps injury, has now sustained a new niggle.

"Nitish Kumar Reddy has been ruled out for the first three T20Is. The all-rounder who was recovering from his left quadriceps injury sustained during the second ODI in Adelaide, complained of neck spasms, which has impacted his recovery and mobility. The BCCI Medical Team is monitoring his progress," BCCI stated.

Norrie knocks out Alcaraz from Paris Masters

PARIS, AFP: World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz said he had "no feeling at all" for the ball after he was beaten 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in his opening match at the Paris Masters on Tuesday by 31st-ranked Briton Cameron Norrie.

The six-time Grand Slam champion has failed to win the Paris Masters in five attempts and now faces losing his place atop the rankings should rival Jannik Sinner win the tournament.

After three weeks out of official competition due to an ankle injury which forced him to skip the Shanghai Masters, Alcaraz said he had come into the event in Paris in fine fettle.

US fourth seed Taylor Fritz safely navigated his way through to the third round with a 7-6 (7/4), 6-2 win over Australian qualifier Aleksandar Vukic while reigning champion Alexander Zverev battled past Argentina's Camilo Ugo Carabelli 6-7 (5/7), 6-1, 7-5 to book his spot in the third round.

Earlier, Russia's Daniil Medvedev breezed past Spaniard Jaume Munar (6-1, 6-3).

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